

先勇者は隠居したい

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井々田K

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Iida K



Sendai Yuusha wa Inkyou Shitai

(先代勇者は隠居したい)

The Previous Hero wants to Retire

Iida K

(タピオカ)

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Story Description:

Three years ago, in the land of Reinbulk, a Legendary Hero was summoned in the Kingdom of Leezalion and he succeeded in repelling the Demon King. Now, five students are summoned back into Reinbulk by the Kingdom of Luxeria to fight against the Demon King and the demon army. Unlike the other heroes, Yashiro Yuu has no magical affinity and the Luxeria Kingdom has no intention on acknowledging his existence or returning him to his world.

However, Yuu is actually the previous Hero that had fought the Demon King. Moreover, he is perplexed at the situation since he knows the Demon King has not returned since he sealed him. If the seal was ever broken then he would be automatically summoned instead of normal summoned. Since he already saved the world once and the Demon King hasn't been unsealed, Yuu decides to leave the demons to the new heroes and retire from the Hero business. So he decides to become an adventurer.

Original Story can be found here: [Link](#)

Translation source can be found here: [Link](#)

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井々田K
Iida K





ゼファー



ヴォーダン・ヘレオット



クオン・ヘレオット



メアリー・フィ・
クレストリア



ファルハット・エンハンス



時の魔女ノルン



ジャン・
ジャック・
ユースタス

ベルナデット

社勇

クーシェ

人物紹介

先代勇者は隠居した



あまぎ かいと
天城海翔

あいく ちや
咲夜

あやね
茜

あきら
晶

Chapter 63 - Already, the Meeting of the Two Over There

*

「Hah, hah.....!」

A lone young lady was running. A young lady that was still only fourteen or fifteen years old.

The young lady raised her breathing and seemed to be in pain but she continued to run.

It was as if she were running away from something.

Nearby, there was a sea of flames. The streets that were like a maze were covered in flames.

However, the young lady was running away from an existence that was even more dreadful than the nearby flames.

She was overflowing with tears. They were neither tears that came from pain nor were they tears of joy that came from delight.

「っ, Otou-sama.....」

What she recalled in her mind was, the figure of a Mazoku that possessed four arms slaughtering her father.

「Otou-sama.....!」

They were tears of sorrow from having lost her kind and great father.

「Fufufufu, it's futile even if you run, your ladyship. You can't escape from me^[1], you know?」

While it was a voice that could be heard as gentle, the owner of that voice had four arms and was the man.....No, the Mazoku that killed the young lady's father right in front of her.

「っ.....!」

In a hurry due to the voice that drew near from behind, the young lady came out from the sea of fire, opened a certain door, and shut the door as if to hide.

She didn't think that she would be able to escape from the Mazoku by doing that. However, for the young lady that was in an extreme situation, she didn't have the composure to think about it.

Seeming to have not been burned by the fire yet, the room that she rushed into was pitch dark.

Although it was said to be pitch dark, it wasn't enough that one couldn't tell that they were inside the room.

DON!! (BAM!!)

「Kyaah!!」

The door that she pinned down with her back exploded, and the young lady was blown away by the blast.

「Aguh!」

Colliding with “something” that was at the center of the room, the young lady raised a voice from the pain.

And then, at the other side of the blown off door, there was the figure of the Mazoku that had a back of flames.

「Let me say it again, my name is 『Deilameth』[\[2\]](#). Receiving the second name of 『The Fist Wind』, I am a Count Class Mazoku.」

It was a Mazoku that announced himself like a gentleman, but from those eyes of his, respect or anything else for the other party couldn't be felt.

That was natural. Because, coinciding with the fact that, for humans, Mazoku are their natural enemies and are subjects that should be eliminated, for Mazoku, humans are low-lives and are subjects that should be eliminated.

He had expressed words of respect to the lady, but, to Deilameth, this young lady was an existence that should be called something like a beetle.

「Now then, while it is indeed regrettable, I must kidnap her ladyship. Please, without any pointless resistance, obediently come with me to my master's side.....」

「Then why! Why did you have to kill father! Wouldn't have been fine to just kidnap me directly!？」

Interrupting the Mazoku, Deilameth's words, the young lady shouted such.

When she did, Deilameth's facial expression changed to one of anger.

「You lowly, human.....! How dare you interrupt my wordsss!!」

The tone that was gentle became wild, and Deilameth gripped the fists of his four arms tightly.

「I can no longer endure this. Very well, if I crush your limbs, I shall no longer hear that mouth of yours, correct!？」

The four arms that were like logs were raised overhead, aiming for the young lady.

(Someone.....Anyone...!)

To that “desire of hope that was similar to a prayer”, a “sword” that became a wall at the young lady's back acted in concert with it.

「Wha, what in the world!？」

「.....Eh?」

Surpassing the light intensity of the flames, the flash that could already be mistaken for the light of the sun gently wrapped the young lady. While experiencing a sense of security that was similar to being embraced by a mother's arms, she turned behind her, to the light. What was there was,

「Fuhahahahaha!! I am one that manipulates the black scorching heat, one who bears a thousand blades! I am the 『Darkness Executioner』. Soul of evil, be scorched by my blade of conviction and be suppressed!」

the figure of a young man wearing a pitch black overcoat raising a

sword of light overhead.

Translator's Notes:

- [1] Uses “wagahai” (我輩) to refer to himself.
- [2] Anyone remember him? He did appear before.

Chapter 64 - The Preceding Hero and the Sound of Rainfall

*

When one continues northwest to the Port City Be Io from Lizwadia, a gentle sloping mountain range awaits.

It's the Lu Teo Mountain Range.

This mountain range is often used by peddlers leaving Be Io and, as if the soil were prepared, a flat road went through it. Even if one were to be riding a carriage, it feels comfortable how it wouldn't shake.

It's surrounded by a forest, but even so, when compared to the Forest of Bewilderment, a very bright road went through it.

The light of the sun that peeked through the gaps of the trees shined on the wagons of a caravan that was continuing on the mountain range's gently sloping road. And then, in one of those wagons, the sunshine also shined on a black haired boy that was sleeping on the roof of a big wagon that a silver Kulkel was transporting.

「Dammit, the flickering is so dazzling that I can't sleep.」

He was Yashiro Yuu, the Hero that saved this world of 『Reynbrook』 from the Demon Lord three years ago.



It's already three days since we left Lizwadia.

Bernadette and I took up to being escorts of a merchant's caravan who was just thinking that they wanted an escort at a village of wine farmers, whose main industry was a grape plantation, called 『Colshin』 that we stopped by on the way, and that was how we were able to continue our journey sitting and lying down in a wagon.

「Oya, it feels like I just heard some kind of really long explanation

speech?」

「For now, you should show a bit more shame.」

I was lying down on top of the wagon and Bernadette, having removed the detachable slit skirt that was worn with a zipper style, had her bare legs coming from the skirt that became something like a tight mini with a slit in it and was dangling her legs from the roof of the wagon.



I was surprised that it was detachable, but I was also surprised by how low Bernadette's shame was as she freely exposed her bare legs.

「Fufufu, this is the so-called, Service Scene, you know, Yashiro-san.」

「Don't get so full of yourself, you nitwit.」

「I don't want to be told that by the Yashiro-san who was intermittently staring at my thighs since a while ago~.」

I, I was found out!?

「Besides, when it becomes this season, the light of the sun is so strong that even the vestment becomes hot. But, if it's like this, just by taking off the bottom of the skirt, it feels very refreshing, you know?」

「Heh~. I thought that skirts would just let the wind go through them just as they were and be refreshing.」

「It might be fine to think that way if it were a normal skirt. However, vestments are originally made with thick cloth and the length is fairly long. There's no space for wind to go through.」

「I see.」

「Even in the conversation just now, you intermittently stared about four times, didn't you, Yashiro-san.」

I, I was found out!!

「Come to think of it, it's already almost summer for Reynbrook.」

No wonder it was getting hot. And while I'm on that subject, are there cicadas in this world?

「When you speak of summer, it's all about Galarie's ice candy. I've heard that even though it's really cold, it's sweet, delicious, and the best. I definitely want to try eating it.」

By the way, I would like to point out that this girl's 「eating」 is to consume the portions of several tens of people.

「Ice candy? Ah~, is it something like popsicles?」

「You know of them!?!」

Snapping onto my muttering, Bernadette drew closer to me.
B, but still, this is dangerous. This posture is dangerous!

Bernadette came leaning her body facing me, who was lying down, but Bernadette's large breasts were dangling in front of my eyes! To be able to make breast bags like that even though it's supposed to be made of a thick cloth, as expected of another world.

「I'm starting to think it's a bit bad for your eyes to be on nothing but my breasts even though I'm seriously asking you a question.」

「I, I'm sorry.」

Gori. With a Magic Gun pushed to my forehead, I raised my hands and took a "Give up" pose.

「Jeez. Yashiro-san really is a beast!」

I'd kind of like for you to not acknowledge me as a beast looking so delighted.....

「O~I, Nii-chan![\[1\]](#) Could you guys help out a bit?」

「Hn?」

When a rough man's voice was made, the speed of the march of the caravan, which was a line of wagons, began to slow down.

「What happened?」

Bernadette went into a half-rising posture and asked.....tte
OOOOHHHH!!

H, her skirt is! Having gone into a half-rising posture, from her skirt is!!

「The weather's started to change! It looks like it will go from an evening shower to full-blown rain. Help out in making the tents!」

I, I can see it! Just a bit more, by moving my head just a tiny bit more, the Utopia that men dream of is! By these eyes!!
.....Eh, no way.....To not see the panty's string from this angle.....C, could it be, she's not wearing...ツ!

「I am wearing them!!」

「Tarabaah!!」

Getting kicked and flying by Bernadette, I fell from the carriage and

tumbled down the mountain trail.



Just as the merchant troupe Occhan^[2] said, by the time we finished fastening the tents with the caravan, the weather became suspicious and by the time we started distributing food, a downpour of rain started.

「Man~, it's great that we put them up in an open place.」

「Yeah, seriously.」

While laughing like that, the merchant Occhans were taking in warmth under the tents.

Just as the Occhans said, in an open area within the mountains, the wagons of the stopped caravan stopped as if drawing a semi-circle, and, within the tents that stretched out from those wagons, light trading and pleasant talks started among them.

「Kukeh~」

「Nn~.....It's warm~.」

Maybe because of the temperature drop due to the rain, or maybe because it was after she had finished eating the distributed food, Bernadette slept while hugging Silber as a replacement for a pillow.

「Yo~, An-chan. Is it already bedtime for your company's Sister-chan?」

「Yeah, pretty much. She's something like a “eat well, sleep well” kind of person.」

「Dahahaha! Sister-chan's way of eating is pretty amazing after all!」

The merchant Occhan that invited us at Colshin Village came by holding two cups made of iron. Steam was coming from the cups.

「Wanna drink some coffee?」

「I'll have some.」

When I held it the cup I was handed in my hands, its heat was transmitted to me.

Rather, it was in all honesty hot.

「Achi!」

「It was just boiled after all! Of course it'll be hot.」

While laughing with a “Gahahaha”, Occhan drank the coffee within the cup with one breath.

And then, glancing at me, he smiled with a broad grin.

「Goh! ～～っ!?!」

Not wanting to lose to him, I tried to drink it in one breath but, still, it was hot.

Regretfully, I wasn't able to chug it down.

「It's just a bit more until we get to Be Io. I pray that there won't be turn for An-chan's group, but even if I do that, it just might happen. In case there's a time like that, I'm counting on ya, got it?」

「Understood -ssu.」

That bright sky was now dark, hidden by clouds, and had a downpour of rain.

Now then, I guess I should go on night watch.

Translator's Notes:

[1] For those that don't know, Nii-chan or Nii-san could be used when calling a young man, not just a brother.

[2] Occhan is another way of saying old man like ossan.

Chapter 65 - The Preceding Hero and the Raiders of the Dark Night

*

As the sound of rainfall became intense, the rain that hit Yuu's skin that was sticking out a bit from his grey overcoat also became stronger. Covering himself from the head down with an overcoat as a replacement for a raincoat, Yuu was sitting on top of the caravan's wagon. He did so because if it was from here, he would be able to survey the surroundings.

The people of the merchant troupe were in the middle of sleeping in either the wagons or in the tents and Yuu was gazing out to see if there were any disasters while paying attention to presences in the surroundings.

Yuu, who was originally unskillful in sensing presences, made full use of his sense of sight and sense of hearing, which towered above the rest when compared to normal people, and was vigilant of the surroundings.

Just as he did three years ago, Yuu freely used his sense of sight and sense of hearing and took up to being on night watch.

(Still, it sure is amazing. This is a heavy rain that could be enough to belong to a typhoon or something.)

With the overcoat already being unable to do anything but keep Yuu's field of vision being wet, his whole body was soaking wet.

Even while his whole body was soaked, Yuu single-mindedly worked hard to be vigilant of the surroundings.

And then, after who knows how many minutes or how many hours had passed, he abruptly noticed an oddity.

(What's that? I can hear a strange sound mixed in with the sound of the rain.)

That was a sound that a person normally shouldn't have caught on to. Even for the beasts that live in the forest, it was a type of sound that they might or might not have noticed.

But it might just be some kind of mistake.
Just as he thought of that possibility as being likely,

(.....It's, something's footsteps.)

Basha (Splash). There was the sound of a puddle being stepped in.

(Is it a beast? If that's the case, it's best to just take it down but.....)

Yuu, who was standing on his knees on top of the wagon, made his posture as low as possible while turning his eyes towards the forest. He hadn't noticed where the sound of the puddle being stepped on had come from. Therefore, he didn't know where they would come from.

(If it's a type of bandit.....it'll turn into something troublesome.)

Reaching his hand out to the pouch attached to his waist behind him, he held some throwing knives in his hand.
He took a stance where he could immediately throw them if need be.

And then, while he was in that stance, although it was muffled due to muddy ground but still unable to be completely erased, footsteps could be heard coming from the surroundings. They were gradually getting closer.

(We're surrounded!? Moreover.....what a number of them!)

As the footsteps were gradually getting louder, he was also surprised by the number of footsteps.
If they were four-legged beasts, there would be ten of them. If it were to be converted to people, the footsteps of no less than about twenty people could be heard coming.

The owners of the footsteps were clearly aiming for this caravan. They were slowly approaching while surrounding it.

The moment that he considered waking up Bernadette and the merchants, there was a unique 「Giriri」 sound of the bowstring of a bow being drawn.

(So they're thieves!)



Throwing a knife in the direction of the sound, he simultaneously

kicked off the wagon and assailed the thief that possessed the bow.

「っ!？」

As he got down in front of the fellow that panicked after noticing that the bowstring that they were about to fire the arrow from was cut,

「.....Cen...taur？」

Yuu involuntarily stopped moving from that appearance that was like a union of a horse and a person.

「Kuh！」

The Centaur that was wearing rain gear just like Yuu took some distance from Yuu, and, in exchange, another Centaur came in from the side with a spear.

Centaurs are a hunting race as well as a combat group that could easily make use of spears and halberds in battle.

Centaurs should have been a tribe that was proud and always tried to be noble.

「And yet why.....Why are you doing this kind of thief-like behavior！」

Attacking with a group at the time of night where people are sleeping, that was truly something thieves would do, isn't it.

While tightly grasping a spearhead that was aimed at himself from his side and smashing the spear just like that, Yuu shouted.

「!？」

The Centaur of the spear that was broken gasped, and then, having been hit in the neck by a hand that was used like a blade that was fired with a speed that couldn't be seen with the naked eye, just like that, Basha, a large sound was made and it collapsed.

「All of you guys are Centaurs, aren't you!? I've heard that Centaur warriors are all proud and noble! So why did you come at the dead of night like this and even sneakily move in the middle of the rain!!」

Stepping on the head of the collapsed Centaur enough so that its head wouldn't smash, Yuu shouted with a voice loud enough that it wouldn't

lose to the sound of the rainfall while pointing the tip of the sword at its neck.

With even the sound of the rain stopping for an instant, once again, the sound of rainfall began to ring.

「If you don't feel like answering, this guy's head will fly, you know?」

Centaur's also treasured their relatives.

There was a Centaur that was clearly disturbed from a hostage being taken.

「Wait! Don't kill Nii-san!」

The Centaur whose bowstring was cut tossed their rain gear and started running towards Yuu.

「I don't intend to kill him. Though, that's only if you guys answer me.」

Keeping his green jewel sword pointed at the collapsed Centaur, Yuu said that.

「Please.....Don't kill him.」

He couldn't see the face or the body due to the rain gear, but the Centaur was a blonde, beautiful woman.

Yuu, who would normally have a reaction to that, ended it at the level of taking a glance at the female Centaur.

「Who's the one that leads you guys. Is it this guy?」

When he asked that while stepping on the collapsed Centaur's head a bit stronger, a Centaur that had their body wrapped up in rain gear appeared from his right.

「It's me.」

Maybe because they were roused from having their brethren being taken hostage, that Centaur said that with an irritated voice.

「Why did you attack. Were you aiming for something of monetary value?」

When Yuu asked, that Centaur undid their rain gear and showed their

face while they shouted.

「It was, to rescue our kidnapped brethren!」

A light chestnut^[1] woman glared at Yuu as if he were her parents' enemy.

Translator's Notes:

^[1] This is referring to the coat of her horse half.

Chapter 66 - The Preceding Hero Makes a Decision

*

According to the Centaur Nee-chan (the leader-looking one), because several ten-odd children had gone missing in the past several weeks, when they investigated, they found out that human merchants were selling Centaur children as slaves.

She said that although they somehow managed to rescue several of them, there are still many that have fallen to becoming slaves.

Moreover, they are in a situation where they don't even know where more than half of them are right now.

Maybe because they were impatient, they tried to investigate each and every merchant party using some rough methods.

The bow and arrow that the Centaur girl (her breasts are on the larger side) had drawn seemed to be meant as a check, and it seemed that it was supposed to be used at the right moment as a warning shot.

I see, so it wasn't just one or two of them. Moreover, for it to be children....., no wonder they were doing it indiscriminately.

While sitting like a horse (.....well, it's because her lower half is a horse) inside the tent, the leading woman explained it as such to me and the merchant party Occhans.

「Unfortunately, we don't handle any slaves. To deal with them, suitable qualifications are required, you see.」

Occhan said it like that, but the Centaurs didn't seem to trust those words.

「Occhan. If it's alright, I think it would be faster to let them search through everything.」

「I don't mind but, I'll be troubled if the goods get damaged you know?」

「I'll watch over them.」

When I said that and stood up, the Centaurs all simultaneously stood up and closely observed me.

Y, you don't really need to put your wariness to the max like that..... Honestly, that kind of hurts me a bit.

In particular, the little sister of the Centaur that I stepped on is looking at me with a gaze as if I were her parent's enemy.

I've gotten used to it, but being looked at with those kinds of eyes sure is the most painful~.

In the middle of the weakened rain, the Centaurs carried out their search of the caravan.



Speaking only of the results, its natural but, within the caravan, there weren't any abducted Centaurs, and even before that, there weren't any slaves of any kind.

「.....We are sorry.」

What came out from the Centaurs that completed their search of the caravan was words of apology.

「Ah, yeah. We don't really mind.....Right?」

「Yeah. Rather, it's a bit pitiful.」

From the fact that the high in pride Centaurs had admitted to their mistake and apologized, the merchant troupe Occhans, who conversely felt feelings of guilt, had all unanimously considered the Centaurs to not be in the wrong and forgave them.

「If it's slaves, they probably might be in either 『Be Io』 or 『Oltaine』, you know?」

When one of the people among the merchant party was struck with an idea, the Centaurs' eyes changed.

「Is that true!?!」

「I'm not sure. It's just, the slave markets that sell slaves don't open just to sell one or two slaves. The underground slave markets are the same. Since sea routes are used to transport slaves in large amounts, they are often opened in things like port cities.」

Discovering hope from Occhan's words, the leading Centaur smiled as if she were relieved.

Ara, she's surprisingly cute.

「By the way, what's Oltaine?」

「It's a port city that you'll hit if you head in a straight line from Lizwadia. Come to think of it, why didn't you head over there? I mean, going to Be Io where you have to cross a mountain is longer after all.」

When I asked, a lanky bodied merchant answered and at the same time asked something.

「Just a pretend delivery. Leader-san, about that kidnapping case, could you let me help you guys out?」

「What?」

When I began to talk with that, the leading Centaur-san.....Erm, that sure is long.

「By the way, what's your name?」

「I'm called Ire.」[\[1\]](#)

Ire-san, right.

When I began to talk, Ire-san looked at me with a dubious face. It was a distrustful expression that felt like it was asking "Why?".

「I'm also heading to Be Io. My objective was to meet with the town mayor there and hand over something that was left in my custody. It's not like its a ship that's set sail but, I've come to understand the situation. To begin with, it's not a rushed journey, so if I'm able to help, I want to help.」

I'd rather not get involved with troublesome things, but, this case, it's

something that I can't ignore.

Not as a Hero, but as a single human.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Original: イーレ. Pronounced (ee-re)

Chapter 67 - The Preceding Hero and the Perilous Mood

*

「I see, and so, just like that, you're now going to be acting together with Centaur-san and the others.」

「Ah, yeah.」

It had become a morning where the rain had stopped and the sun had risen, and the weather was one where was not a single cloud in the sky. Although the wagons had difficulty progressing due to the mountain trail being muddy from the rain, with the Centaurs' cooperation, we slowly but steadily continued on.

Despite that, it seems that Bernadette's mood was excessively bad. Even now, she was sitting next to me and staring at me with reproachful eyes.

「Hmph. Is that so, is that so. Ire-san, was it? She is Yashiro-san's preferred older-type beauty, after all~.」

「.....Y, you're misunderstanding things. Even I have times when I move from being driven by righteous indignation, you know?」

「She has Yashiro-san's preferred big breasts, after all. Every time she moves with her trot, they sway side to side, after all~.」

「.....」

It's, it's no good. I don't really get it but I'm not getting through to her! Also, why am I being criticized!?

「Warrior Yashiro!」

「Oh?」

A frigid female voice resounded.

The owner of that yell was the above mentioned Ire-san.

Wearing destructively excellent erotic equipment known as bikini armor, her breasts, just as Bernadette said, greatly shook with a *purun purun* every time she walked.

The light brown mantle that could only conceal her upper half made it feel like a peep show.

「Do you, need me for something?」

Standing up on top of the wagon, I reply as refreshing as I possibly can.

「.....Hmph!」

It felt like Bernadette, who was beside me, became even more ill-tempered. But, what's important right now is to input that fascinating body within my head without being found out.

「Yeah, we've decided on our plans. We'd like to have you also present.」

After offering my help, I officially became the Centaurs' assistant. It's because I was halfway forcibly accepted when they thought that it would be better to have a lot of guys that could fight if such a time ever came.

「Right! I'll be over there right away!」

「The bottom of your nose is stretching.」

「Whoops.」

Noticing what Bernadette said, I promptly went back to a smart-looking facial expression. I intended to look like a pretty boy, at least in my mind.

「Well then, I'll be going for a bit.」

「Is that so, go ahead and do what you want~.」

Bernadette puffed up her cheeks and seemed to be sulking. Actually, rather than “seeming” like it, she was totally sulking.

「Yashiro-san, you idiot.」

Bernadette's monologue had reached me, who was headed to Ire-san's side.



「.....」

「.....」

「A, ahaha.....S-so this is town of Be Io. It's a tasteful town, at any time, isn't it.」

「So?」

「That's right.」

「S-sorry.....」

Why is such a perilous mood hanging in the air?

.....W, well, it's fine. Since there's the saying that "a woman's heart and autumn weather are both fickle", no matter how much I worry about it, I won't be able to arrive at the right answer.

Now then, this is sudden, and I mean really sudden but, we've arrived at the town of Be Io.

The result of the conference with Ire-san and the others was that I was appointed the role of meeting with the chief of the Port City Be Io,

「Vodan-shi」^[1], asking about news regarding the slave market, and, if possible, help out in the rescue of the people that were kidnapped.

Because the good that I was transporting was addressed to Vodan-shi's child, the merchant Ossans said that I'll definitely be able to meet with him.

I wasn't all that worried since the Headmaster had a friendship with him, but, based on my own experience, I for some reason thought 「this Vodan person just might be a wire puller」, and when I tried saying that out loud in a joking way, I got a severe scolding from the present merchant troupe Ossans.

As for why, they said something like since he honored the 「Moral Code (Jingi)」 and had chivalry overflowing with manly spirit, he was not a character that would lend a hand to such a crime.

Moral code and chivalry, huh. Vodan-shi, he is unmistakably a person that is called Oyabun^[2] or something, isn't he?

Am, am I the only one that has a bad premonition about this? No, this is already past the point of being a premonition and it's definitely bad.

So, speaking of the crucial Ire-san and the others, we divided our war potential into two, with the other group heading to the other port city of Oltaine and then returning to the Centaur village to call for reinforcements.

We were now acting separately from Ire-san and others, but we arrived here after I persuaded myself with 「since I'll be able to go Kyah kyah and Ufufu with cat-eared and fox-eared Onee-samas, give it up!」.

Ire-san returned to the village and we were now searching the town of Be Io with the remaining guys but,

「.....」

Since this Centaur girl, aka 『Kuushe』, was acting together with me for some reason, things have gotten troublesome.

Although it could be said that it was from the heat of the moment, I had stepped on this girl's older brother. Moreover, I pressed a sword at the back of his neck.

Resenting me for that.....no, that's not right. Not forgiving me for that, she didn't hide her hostility towards me.

It was a sharp look that seemed like it could shoot a person to death. Well, for me, I don't really mind things like bloodlust or hostility, but it would seem that my travelling companion was unable to stomach that.

「Could I have you stop glaring at Yashiro-san?」

With that, Bernadette also turned a look that could shoot a person to death towards Kuushe.

Bernadette.....Are you mad about how I'm being glared at? But I'm fine. That's why I'd like for you to not blame her.....

「With things having gone into such a gloomy mood, we can't start talking about when we will be having a meal!」

I knew it! I knew that it was about food!! Damn it, even though I was a bit happy, in the end it was about food!!

Rather, things have been this way ever since we came out of the forest, dammit!

Although I've been called things like Hero, I'm basically a timid person. Even now, I'm in suspense from attitude of the female camp.

「.....Hmph. It's because you humans kidnapped our brethren that you're in the wrong.」

「Mu! I do think that was something bad. However, this incident isn't something that we did.....」

「After all, humans are only of such caliber. Right from the point when they took the brethren that we couldn't protect.」

「Mukka (Pissed). Same to you guys, having those comrades of yours being kidnapped right under your noses, and on top of attacking an innocent merchant troupe, failing at the attack, you're surprisingly careless people, aren't you?」

「.....How dare you, you were looking down on my brethren, weren't you?」

「.....What is it? You want to fight?」

Kuushe took out a bow from who knows where and Bernadette took out her Magic Guns from the inside of her captivating slit.

「You can'tttt!! We're in the middle of town right now! I'm telling you, it's dangerous to be doing that in the middle of town!」

Desperately doing my best, although I was somehow able to keep them from using their weapons, it became an atmosphere that was more perilous than before.

Women are scary.

It was a single act that made me think that.

Translator's Notes:

[1] I'm not exactly sure how this is translated. Original: ヴォーダン氏

[2] A way of saying Boss. Sometimes associated with how bosses in the yakuza are called.

Chapter 68 - The Preceding Hero is Turned Away at the Gate?

*

Port City, Be Io.

It's a port city that belongs to the Claria region, similar to Luxeria and Lizwadia, and is a town that flourishes with its fishing and shipping industries.

Maybe due to the shipping around the world and the commerce, the modelling of the buildings of the town were really diverse, and the appearance of the lined up hodgepodge of western-style brick buildings and eastern-style wooden houses somehow gave me the impression of Earth's Japan.

Though, within this other world, I think this is heresy.

「Still.....I'm not finding any cat-eared or fox-eared Onee-sans.」

Ever since we arrived at Be Io, we haven't met any cat-eared or fox-eared women. No, we haven't met any of the guys either.

But, in place of that, the dog ears stood out.

Things like droopy eared dog-girls, or women that had wolf-like dog ears that stood straight up.

「They're obviously dog-eared type people, aren't they.」

No, I also like dog ear, you know? I like them but.....for me who was expecting cat ears and fox ears, it feels like my shoulders are drooping a bit.

「Though you say that, your eyes won't get away from the women walking down the road. As expected of you, Yashiro-san.」

「I guess.」

I won't ask what was expected of me and I don't want to hear it.

Now then, heading to Vodan-shi's house while resisting the perilous mood, the three of us continued while getting information from the people walking about the town.

Not only did we ask about the Vodan Clan house, we also indirectly asked about the kidnapped Centaurs.

The result of that was that we learned the location of the Vodan Clan house.

However,

「With there not being any eyewitnesses, I guess it's certain that they were transported in a wagon or something in a large quantity.....」

We walked a pretty vast range and gathered information, but there was so little eyewitness reports on the Centaurs that we might as well say there wasn't any.

「In the worst case, we might have to consider the possibility that 『auctioning has already finished』.」

「.....Kuh」

When Bernadette muttered that, Kuushe tightly gripped her fists sounding mortified.

「.....Well, it's too soon to give up. Let's go to Vodan-san's house and try asking. They should understand the things about the town better than the ordinary people.」

Bernadette nodded at my words and Kuushe also reluctantly nodded while glaring at me.

She's completely become a human-hater, hasn't she. It, it's not like she hate me, right!?



You're definitely an Oyabun, aren't you, Vodan-shi.

That was the first thing I said in my mind at the time we arrived at the Vodan Clan House.

If I had to call it something, it would be a 「palatial residence」, but what

was strange about it was that right on the other side of the iron fence was an imposing building erected, and, within that, there was a western-style building erected.

The building on this side was probably something like an 「office」. Men in black suits and men with terrifying looks that were sloppily wearing kimonos were hanging about in its vicinity.

And then,

「.....We're really getting stared at, aren't we.」

「Yeah」

Seeming to be vigilant with all their strength, the 『members』' gazes were pointed towards us for some time now.

And they weren't eyes that were searching us.

They were hostility-filled eyes that seemed to say

「Want me ta take yer life!?!」

In terms of sharpness, Kuushe surpassed them. But in terms of persistence, the people that were members were much, much higher.

「We won't be bumped off for just making an inquiry to Vodan-shi, will we?」

「I, I don't think even they would do that.」

I'm sure it won't turn into a dangerous story where they'll tell me to leave my head just for coming to ask a question. Probably.

「.....M, men need to be brave! I'll take the chances!」

「Oohh! Yashiro-san just said something manly! What is this? These palms that are projected out towards me. They seem to be wriggly moving but just what kind of gesture is this?」

「It's to give me courage to take a step forward. More specifically, I'll do my best if you let me rub you.」

「A palm to the cheek or a bullet to the head, please pick one.」

Man, even though there are two choices, the risk is too high for one of them. I'll go for the palm without hesitation.

Well, since I don't want any pain, I reluctantly put down my extended hands.

Still, 「It's to give me courage to take a step forward」. Those were my words but weren't they pretty good? Especially how it's like a wise saying but also feels like a pick up line.

「Well then, I'll be going.」

「These were the last words that Yashiro-san and I exchanged.....」

「Don't put in a narration that make it sound like I'll die!」

Hitting Bernadette's breasts, I walked towards the Vodan Clan house while Kuushe turned eyes that looked like she was watching pigs at a pig farm at me and while Bernadette became teary eyed from being hit and was shouting at me.



Starting with the conclusion, I wasn't able to meet with Vodan-shi. It's because I was turned away at the towering office that was acting like it was a checking station.

According to the receptionist Oji-san (He was a stern faced Wolfman with an eyepatch on his right eye), Vodan-shi was busy, and furthermore, it seems that they would let some guy of unknown background meet with him.

Even when I said that I came to deliver a bell while showing them the bell that I had received from Lizwadia's headmaster, they didn't believe me and, in the end, I was forcibly expelled by some Oji-sans that appeared from another room.

.....Although I'm used to bloodlust and stuff, scary things are still scary. Honestly, I thought I was going to wet myself.

「But still, with this, we're back at the starting point. And situation-wise, things have become more troubling than it was at the starting point.....」

We were attempting to reconfirm our current situation and take a break at the town's Guild and bar. At that bar, with tankard filled with ordinary milk in one hand, Bernadette said that with a sigh mixed in.

It was because we couldn't find a clue in the end. The reason being that our request for cooperation from Vodan-shi and so forth had come to nothing.

「As I thought, I was mistaken for having relied on humans.」

Lining two chairs up and placing the stomach of the horse lower half, Kuushe looked at me while displaying the subtly rare appearance that was a scene of how Centaurs sit down.

「To cut off a person's good will like that, I can't really call that sane. Well, Yashiro-san's good will is mixed with lust though.」

Bernadette snapped at Kuushe's words. Again, I'm happy that you followed up for me, but, as I thought, you still doubt me, don't you? Damn it, why am I being treated like a pervert like this!

「.....Hmph.」

Maybe because she did feel a bit bad about it, Kuushe turned away and,

「.....Sorry.」

unclearly muttered that.

.....Oh crap, I unintentionally started grinning. Man, to feel like this when given this kind of response, I just might be inclined to being a S.

「What's wrong? You look disgusting, you know?」

「Can't you say that in a bit kinder way!?!」

To say such a rash remark while looking at me with eyes that look like she were looking at something strange, that is sure is new! I'll keep it a secret that I was a bit thrilled.

「Still, we're at a stalemate. I still think that we could manage if we were able to meet Vodan-san at least once.」

If I could directly hand over the Headmaster's bell, I think we'd be able to manage things after but.....I'm surprised that I was turned away at the gate.

「I guess we have no choice but to breakthrough from the front.」

Bernadette worried about it while twisting her neck. Hey hey, Onii-san is against such dangerous plans, you know.
.....No, is it already to the point where we have no other hands to play other than that?

Just as we were worrying like that, suddenly,

Boron. Bororon.

we heard a peculiar sound.

「I have taken the chance to overhear your story. If I may, could I have a part in that plan of yours?」

「Oh?」

Since the voice came from behind me, when I turned around to look, a tall man with a broad-brimmed black hat that had a richly colored feather decoration attached and wearing a high class looking mantle that was the same color as the hat was standing there.

The sound from earlier was probably a sound that came from the acoustic guitar that was held in that man's arms.

And then, when I saw the appearance of that man, I reflexively stood up.

「Jean!?!」

「It has been a while, my friend, Yashiro. I am happy that we could meet once again in this land.」

That tall figured man, Jean Jack Eustace pushed up his broad-brimmed hat with his finger and his splendid mask and blue eyes were displayed.

Chapter 69 - The Preceding Hero and the Minstrel

*

Jean Jack Eustace.

I'm sure that you've somehow realized already, but he's one of the comrades that I travelled together with in my journey three years ago. He was a noble of a certain country, but, for the sake of his dream, or rather creed, he became an eccentric noble that cast aside his inheritance but.....

「I didn't that we'd meet again in a place like this.」

「Fufu, I could say the same thing. Well, I did hear rumors that you had come back.」

Jean sat in one of the table's seats that surrounded us.

「Umm.....Are you an acquaintance of Yashiro-san's?」

Seeing my and Jean's situation, Bernadette asked that while putting up a small hand.

「Yes, lovely young lady. He and I are old friends. We have met again for the first time in several years.」

「You do have a good friend after all, Yashiro-san!」

「So you're recognizing him as a good person just because he praised you a little.」

You're a bit too simple, aren't you.

「Allow me to say it formally. My name is Jean Jack Eustace. For my occupation, I suppose you could say it is a minstrel?」

When he named himself as such, Jean rung his guitar with a *bororon*.

「Jean Jack Eustace? You couldn't be, are you the author of that

『Hero Biography Series』, Jean Jack Eustace-san?』

Hearing Jean's name, Bernadette vigorously stood up and asked in return.

And then, in those words of Bernadette's, there were some words that I couldn't ignore no matter what.

「『Hero Biography Series』.....Oi, you didn't, did you.」

「Hahaha, be at ease. Your name doesn't come up in it.」

This goes for my name and so on, but I'd seriously like to be pardoned from having my black history from being published.

「To think that I'd be able to meet with that Jean Jack Eustace-san! P, please let me have your autograph.」

「I don't mind.」

Jean pulled a feather pen with ink on it out of nowhere.
Nn? The feather attached to the hat is gone?

「I, I'll treasure it!」

「Thank you. I'm sure that book also finds it pleasant to be embraced by such a beautiful woman such as yourself.」

Jean wrote his signature with a practiced hand on the front cover of the book Bernadette took out. Ah, the feather returned to the hat. When did that happen.

.....Uumu, still, I don't like it for some reason.

When I see Bernadette being delighted from getting an autograph, there's some kind of surge of anger in my chest.

「So? You're going to tell us the way we can meet with Vodan-shi, right?」

「Yes, of course.」

Somehow getting irritated even though I had a surge of anger, I asked that in order to change the subject.

Nodding to my words, Jean extended his hand to a concealed pocket in his

mantle, took out a single sheet of rolled up paper, and spread that paper out on top of the table.

「Nn?『Galarie Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration, Be Io Preliminary Tournament』?」

What was written there was the preliminary tournament of the 『Galarie Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration』 that I was looking forward to watching.

「This Be Io is one of the seven preliminary exhibition sectors.」

Saying that, Jean looked at me and had a complacent smile.

.....This guy, he's planning on making me material for his stories, isn't he!?

With Kuushe, who left her seat thinking this was foolish, and Bernadette, who was in ecstasy with the book in her arms, in a different place, I felt shivers from the self-proclaimed minstrel.

Chapter 70 - The Preceding Hero, On Standby?

*

To begin with, just what is the 『Galarie Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration』.

To those of you that thought that since it was called a Martial Arts Demonstration it would be where displays of sword battles would take place.

Several hundred years ago, that recognition wouldn't have been wrong.

.....That's right, in those several hundred years, the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration has changed greatly.

The Martial Arts Demonstration that displayed a kind of research society aspect where every magic and martial arts school would display their own techniques and study the techniques of other schools had changed directions from a single sentence of a certain martial arts demonstrator.

「I knew our school was the coolest and the strongest.」

It was a bit changed but it was this kind of way of talking that was light and looked down on the other schools.

And then, the other schools' martial arts demonstrators weren't gentle enough to take those words quietly.

「Oh? What, you're puny group is the strongest? Don't make me laugh, numbskull.」

「You guys ain't much different. Besides, our school is the best.」

「Ah? What? Wanna fight about it? We don't really have a problem with it, you know?」

「Hell yeah we wanna fight!」

Like that, a brawl with every school jumbled in together started, but

there was no way that something like the strongest school could be decided with something like a brawl.

It's because there were also some people that would survive with sly ways of fighting.

Diligently trying to decide the strongest, the top, was something to be admired, but there wasn't just a few that were dazzled by the title and tended heavily towards evil ways. In fact, a majority of them started using underhanded tactics.

Things like putting drugs that cause stomach aches in food, or covering toilet paper in large amounts of mustard.....

The leaders of each nation that greatly saw the situation where such fiendish actions were so readily performed collaborated with each other, and, taking a few decades, they succeeded in making them fight following some rules.

And that is how it became the current Martial Arts Demonstration.



「And so, time flowed and in the world that flowed with it, it became a tournament to see who was the strongest.....No wonder it's so dangerous.」

In the competitor's waiting room of the arena in Be Io, I was reading a guidebook that Bernadette had possessed.

Around me, men with muscular bodies were hard at work in tuning their respective weapons and bodies.

By the way, even though I say competitor waiting room, it's not like I'm the one participating.

「Fu, yah!」

I was Bernadette's attendant, who was practicing her kata in front of me.

「Fu, Fufufu. I'm in perfect form today, Yashiro-san! I feel like if I were in this condition, I could exterminate that huge Dragon Zombie from before!」

To hunt the Ancient Dragon that took both me and Kaito to kill solo, that really is unreasonable.

Well, it's probably that. She's probably trying to say that she's in that kind of perfect condition.

「When I commence my attack from its flank, since it would most likely do an attack to try to mow me down with its arm or tail, I would jump onto the part that was attacking and run on top of it.....」

Ah, she plans on going through a complete walkthrough of it, this Bernadette-san.

「By the way, Yashiro-san, aren't you going to participate as well?」

「By participate.....Do you mean in this tournament?」

「Yes.」

Having finished her simulation, Bernadette sat down next to me on the bench I was sitting on.

「Yashiro-san, although it was by a paper-thin margin, you were able to evade my attack. You have plenty of talent, and even in terms of the body, you seem to boast a high standard. I felt it when I had the chance to touch you before but, I thought that you had a kind of 『perfected body』.」

Mu~. Perfect, huh.....For me, I just wanted to turn my body in one where the Onee-sama types would want to lean on it but.....(This is a digression but, when I said the same thing to Sylvia in the past, I was seriously made to stop).

Wait, huh?

「I haven't let you touch my body before, right?」

I did to her though. Like her chest.

「Gi, giku.」

What's with that, that reaction that not even the present day children would do.

「Y, you've got it wrong! B, by no means! By no means did I think that the

sleeping Yashiro-san's stomach was sexy and unconsciously touch it! By no means did I do that!!」

「.....Is, is that so. I got it.」(monotone)[\[1\]](#)

I'm used to touching but I guess I'm not used to being touched. I, I'm kind of embarrassed.

「Would all competitors participating in the preliminaries please gather around!」

When Bernadette tried to continue on while her face was dyed red, a person that seemed to be one of the staff entered the competitor waiting room. As expected, it seems that they came to call for the competitors.

「D, do your best, okay, Bernadette.」

「Please don't become so formal all of a sudden!」

I saw off the teary eyed Bernadette was lightly waving my hand.

Still, is she really alright? Though, she was in awfully high spirits.

Although she said 「Leave it to me!」 as she was filled with self-confidence and puffed out her chest when I was hesitating about if I should appearing this tournament.....

Maybe it's because I don't have an accurate grasp of Bernadette's true ability that there is some anxiety that remains.

Maybe because I was thinking about that or maybe because I was poor at sensing people's presence like usual, I was late in noticing the figure of a person that was approaching me.

「Nn? Do you need something from me?」

By the time I noticed, a blond guy that was about the same age as me or younger was standing in front of me.

「You're not going out there?」

A soprano voice reached my ears. That guy with a slender physique looked down at me, who was sitting on the bench, and seemed somewhat disgusted.

「Well, since my companion was in high spirits, I thought I'd leave it to her.」

Though I also had the reason of not wanting to stand out too much.

「.....Hiding in the shadow of a woman, do you still call yourself a man like that?」

That guy that said that and seemed to be disgusted with me from the bottom of his heart had obviously taken an attitude that looked down on me.

「.....Ah?」

「HA! Are you unable to do anything but glare?」

What the hell, what the hell is this? Why did it suddenly turn into this kind of atmosphere!?

For starters, why did this guy come to provoke a fight with me? I don't get the meaning of it.

「You want to meet my old man, right? Then don't rely on something like a woman, and come out yourself.」

Saying that over his shoulder, that guy was about to leave the waiting room.

Old man? Nn? This guy,

「Me and the old man, we both hate weak bastards, you know?」

From within that blond hair, fox ears were sticking straight out. I see, so that's why it was a bell.

The port city where many of the Wolf Tribe reside, 『Be Io』. Vodan-shi who was the chief of that city was naturally one of the Wolf Tribe.

I was wondering why the Headmaster would send a bell to that Vodan-shi's child but.....he's probably an adopted child or something. Vodan's child, was of the Fox Tribe.

Translator's Notes:

[1] The monotone part isn't really there. The line was done in all

katakana.

Chapter 71 - The Preceding Hero and the Arena

*

The Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration's arena had an unusual structure.

I'm not sure if they drew in ocean water or something, but a large amount of water was making waves in the gap between the audience seats and the stage.

It was a shape where the stage was surrounded by water.

This was probably an arena that assumed the shape of the real competition in Galarie.

Appropriate of its name of the Metropolis of water, surely this arena also exists in Galarie.

「「「Waaaaaahhh!!」」」

Having cloth bibs attached to the front of my chest and on my back that plainly had the number 36 written on them, I was enveloped in the gazes from the surrounding participants and in the cheers from the audience seating.

There wasn't as many seats as there were in Lizwadia but even the standing rooms were filled.

Looking at how roused up they are just from the preliminaries, I could tell how popular the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration was.

Now then, going by this cloth bib's number, there's a large number of participant that surpasses 30 people. Rather, since it looks like I'm the last one, there are 36 people.

Every one of them are either martial arts masters or guys that seem to have great skill.

「Looking at these guys, it's my win.」

There is a guy that believes in and doesn't doubt his own victory,

「Shuu, shuu!」

and a guy that isn't negligent in image training.

「I've done intensive training in the Nordyold Labyrinth just for this day. If it's me, I can do it!」

A guy who's encouraging himself and aiming for victory.

「Kukuku.....Tonight's sword is thirsting for blood.....Kuhi, kuhihihihhi!!」

A guy occupied by a sword brimming with evil.

「I, all you, chew all up.」

A guy who has already stopped being human.

Various warriors have assembled.

.....Rather, I'm amazed that those last two were able to enter!

The ones that admitted them are also dangerous, aren't they.

And the one that stood out among them, was the woman in the nun's habit that couldn't calm down maybe because she was restlessly looking around at the audience seats, Bernadette.

「What are you doing?」

「Eh, ehh!? Why did Yashiro-san come here!?!」

When I called out to her, Bernadette was surprised and had a huge movement that could be interpreted as over-reacting.

What Bernadette meant by "here" was probably about being on top of the stage.

「Well, some stuff happened.」

「?」

When I casually turned my eyes away, they went to that blond fox jerk that had a certain presence about him that did not surround the normal humans and Wolf Tribesmen.

「? Was there something with that boy?」

「He says that he's Vodan-shi's son.」

「Eh? He's from the Fox Tribe, right? I can see a fox's tail and stuff.」

「He's probably an adopted child or something.」

Maybe because he noticed us, the fox jerk looked at us and smiled with a broad grin.

「Kacchi~n! What is with those eyes that seem to be looking down on us! Yashiro-san, I've decided. I'll defeat that person myself!」

Shaka. Bernadette took out a Magic Gun. However, the Magic Gun she

took out was a gun that I didn't recognize.

「It's the shotgun specified 『Misteltein』!」

Ah, it's true that it looked like a Magic Gun that Bernadette carried.

However, the length of the gun barrel was extended, and furthermore, a hand grip that slides up and down the gun barrel was attached.

「Fufufu.....It'll be a big haul with this!」

Bernadette spun the gun around her finger, making a humming sound.

Her eyes were quite scary.

「Ladies and gentlemen!! We have kept you waiting long enough. From here on out is the opening of the Galarie Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration Preliminary Tournament!

Please take a look at figures of the total of thirty six warriors that will be fighting with their lives at stake in order to go to the main competition!!」

「「「Uooooooooohhhh!!!」」」

Then the announcer in the commentator's seat shouted into the mic, the spectators replied with cheers louder than the voice that came through the mic.

「That's some, wild enthusiasm.」

「That's natural, Yashiro-san. It's because it's a fight where they've bet on who will appear at the Main Competition of the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration held in Galarie!」

「In that case, aren't there too few entrants?」

That's right, even though it should be such a festive situation, there are surprisingly few entrants in this preliminary round.

「Ahh, so it's about that. You'll get serious injuries if you come with a resolve of treating this as a trial of strength. Or rather, you'll die.」

「Ha? Die? Ahh, of course, no matter hard you try, there are unforeseen accidents after all, right.」

「No, you'll be killed.」

「.....Ha?」

Ever since the dangerous words like “die” and “kill” started appearing in Bernadette's words, my instincts called out 「This is dangerous! Please evacuate immediately!」 again after a long time.

.....I, I'm getting a bad feeling about this.

And then, my feeling would once again become realized.

「Well then, let's now continue on with the rules of the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration! The rules are simple! By either making your opponents unable to fight, getting them off of the ring, or dropping them into the water, the last one standing will be the winner!!」

In response to the words of the meaninglessly high tensioned announcer, 「Uoohh!」, cheers were once again raised.

「Th, that was way too simple. Didn't they skip over some important parts? Like you can't kill or you can't use weapons unless they have blunt edges or something?」

「No. This is the tournament's one and only rule. Not caring about anything other than that is also the true charm of the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration, you know?」

Huh? Wasn't it because the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration chaotic from being a no rules, serious battle that all of the nations worked hard to lay out some rules?

Rather, it's a freakin' battle royal. Isn't that a total repetition of the errors of the past!?

「There seemed to be some people that held some doubts in this rule, but of course, what the spectators wanted was match that was thrilling and had impact. Though it is a bit savage.」

Though you say it's savage, you're just continually spinning your gun. You're awfully energetic about it, aren't you?

The glint in your eye is pretty sharp after all.

「Well then, without further delay, let the match begiiiiinnnn!!」

Still, I've been had. If it were going to be like this, I shouldn't have fallen for that fox jerk's provocation.

When I let out a sigh with that nihilistic feeling, the toll of the bell of the match's start and Bernadette's pulling of the trigger of the shotgun that she pointed at me was roughly at the same time.

Chapter 72 - The Preceding Hero and the Arena 2

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「Daaaahh!?!」

Magnificent. There's probably no mistake that that simple word would be leaked out to describe that evasion just now.

Though I didn't do anything but bend back into the shape of a shrimp as I was smiling with a nihilistic feeling to it.

Immediately dodging by the skin of my teeth the gunshot of Maryoku that flew by horizontally, I slid on the ground as if I were in an anime, with a *Zusa~*.

「Damn it. You, little, no-good Sister! Suddenly shooting me like that, what's the meaning of tha.....!」

When I turned my head as I was getting up, I saw the three or four men that got blown away from taking the gunshot as well as the figure of the fox-eared jerk that slipped through the gunshot and was drawing closer to Bernadette. That Bernadette, because that guy was at my back.....

「Bernade—っ!?!」

As I was partially looking over at Bernadette, a shadow stretched over me.

Zugan!

「Hou, you dodged that well, shitty brat.」

The swung down sword smashed the stage that was made out of stone. Dodging that attack by a hair's breadth, I looked at the owner of that sword that was swung and I clicked my tongue.

「Why you.....『The Killing Thief』 Doumel! To think that someone like you would participate.」

「Same to you. It's been a while, baggage guard!」

That large built man, Doumel, raised his sword overhead, and came swinging down at me with a lot of force.
I dodged that with a paper-thin distance.

「You're probably just participating so that you could legally kill people or something, aren't you!？」

「Correct! I'll kill you as your prize!!」

This man's name is Doumel.
We met during my journey three years ago. When we reached a certain town, while I was acting separately from Sylvia and Leo, he was the head of a group of thieves that attacked us while we were being baggage guards.

「I'll return the debt that I owe you from that time, got it?」
「Wasn't that just you reaping what you sowed!!」

Although I was naturally able to easily repel the thieves, only this guy was strong enough to be in a different league, and since I was fighting while protecting Olivia and the others, it was a close fight.

.....But, right now, I don't have anything to protect.

「Rapid!」
「ツ!??」

The moment he held his sword aloft in a big way, I dove into Doumel's chest and drove my fist into the pit of his stomach.
Maybe because I did it with quite a bit of strength, Doumel fainted with just one attack.

「I'll take your sword!」

Robbing the sword that was on Doumel's body, I kicked Doumel off into the sea outside the ring.
It would be a bother if he got back up after all. With this, he'll be treated as disqualified.

「Now then.....」

I was about to head over to Bernadette's side, but, hearing the sound of

something waving about from the left, I reflexively crouched down.

Vwon!

An iron ball flew right over my head as I was crouching down. And then, the fighters that couldn't dodge the iron ball that was connected to a chain were all blown away together.

「Guhihihhi! You did well to dodge my iron ball, youngster of the Hero troupe!」

「『The Demolishing Iron Ball』 Lugoro!? Even you're participating!?!」

Lugoro was a guy that used an iron ball attached with spikes that really suited guys with really round builds, and he was also another crook that attacked us in the middle of our journey.

「Guhihi. I'll turn you into sloppy minced meat——ツ!?!」

「!?!」

Just now, Lugoro was right about to fire off the iron ball. However, fresh blood spouted up from his back and, Dotsun, making a large sound, he collapsed.

Gasha, gasha

What appeared at his back was a man wearing armor that was wet with blood.

「.....It hath been a while.....Black-haired boy.」

A knight with the characteristics of having a subdued and hard to understand way of speaking and having a preference of fighting in a way that opposed the chivalrous spirit,

「『The Fiendish Knight Labangs』!? What the hell, is this round a huge gathering of villains!?!」

「En, garde!」

Labangs drew near while swinging his blood smeared sword at me. It seemed that he wanted to blind me by hurling blood into my eyes.

「Like always, you're using such underhanded tactics.....ツ」

Catching the blood with my arm, when I try to prepare for the drawing near Labangs, Labangs took out a small bag from the other side of the

shield attached to his arm, and threw the contents of it at me.

「Wha!? Damn it, sand got in my eyes!」

「I haveth you now, boy!」

If blood is no good, blind them with sand. So it was a two-stage preparation!

Confident in his victory, Labangs “turned” the tip of his blade at me.

「Y, you bastard!」

「Too bad for you! I read what you were intending to do!」

That’s right, I had promptly closed my eyes and pretended to be blinded. Labangs, who had prepared to attack, showed an expression of surprise.

「I won’t kill you. Go to sleep!」

I swung my sword faster than he could unleash his thrust. Although Doumel’s sword broke with this one stroke, Labangs armor was cut up and he was given an injury that won’t turn into a fatal wound.

「.....How, cowardly.....」

「You’re the only one I don’t want to be told that by!」

Fresh blood coming out, Labangs collapsed. Jeez, at this rate, just how many more acquaintances will I meet with (the bad kind).

「Well, putting that aside, shield, GET!」

Since my sword broke just now, I took Labangs’ shield. Since his sword was wet with blood and looked rusted, I passed on taking it. While I’m at it, I’ll kick Labangs and Lugoro off the stage.

Still.....Just how in the world am I going to fight with just a shield.

When talking about shields, in things like games, isn’t that one of the land mine jobs^[1]?

When talking about a shield as a main equipment, I could still understand it if were a knight that uses a sword, but only having a shield, I still think that it’s impossible, that’s how I feel.

「Hogeah!?!」

「Ah, it surprisingly went well.」

When I fired a back fist with the shield at a guy that came at me from behind, Pahn!, a good feeling sound resounded and the opponent was blown away.

Good, good, this is pretty useful.

A Hero that only fights with a shield might be alright.

「Here I go!!」

Obtaining some new tactics, I went to mow down my enemies with great vigor (with a shield).



「The Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration has begun without delay. Immediately following the start, it's become a fierce battle. Now then, here, we'll have the introduction of our guest and commentator.」

「Hello, this is Jean Jack Eustace.」

「It is the author of that huge best-seller, the 『Hero Biography Series』, as well as an investor of today's tournament, Eustace-shi. We are glad to have you for today.」

「Likewise, I'm glad to be here.」

「Now then, I think we should move back to the current situation. Immediately following the start of the match, with the attack that bib number 28, Bernadette fired as a start, the top of the stage has now become a battleground!」

「Already more than ten fighters have dropped out. Among the fighters that haven't dropped out yet that stand out are.....bib number 28, 『The Mysterious Beautiful Agent (Self-Proclaimed)』 Bernadette, and then the one that has unfolded a fierce fight with that Bernadette is bib number 1! 『Kuon the Profuse Hurrican』, aka, the one we all know, Kuon Heleott! Kuon Heleott is the son of Vodan Heleott-shi, the chief of this town of Be Io! Being the head of the next era for the Heleott group, he's a being with great expectations for him. Other than them, there's bib number 14, possessing a huge build surpassing two meters, 『The Fist Priest』 Ulgan! Number 7, 『The Middle-Aged Knight』 Falhut Enhans! And then, number

36, the nameless warrior Yuuya Shirou!!」

「Fufu. Yuu.....Excuse me, Fighter Yuuya Shirou has made notorious warriors such as the Killing Thief and the Fiendish Knight powerless.」

「Made powerless? But Fighter Labangs has spilt blood.....」

「Fufufu..... He “won’t kill” them.」

「?」

「Ahh, excuse me. He won’t let them be killed. That one attack, I don’t know if it was because the armor was tough or if it was on purpose, but the spot that was cut by the sword was a spot that won’t turn into a fatal wound, and moreover, there is only a small amount of blood. According to my diagnosis, Fighter Labangs probably only fainted from the intense pain. Even the for one that had his equipment stolen and kicked and dropped off the stage, that was probably done after it finished with him fainting.」

「I see, thank you very much for that. ——Uh-oh? In the middle of Eustace-shi’s commentary, there was a rapid development on the stage!」



「っ!?!」

Gou!! (Boom)

Immediately, a strong fist skimmed by close to my ear.

Fast. If it was just the speed of the fist, it probably exceeded my own.

The blood that went along my cheek supported that presentiment.

「Funnu!」

The fist that was unleashed from that near two meter body possessed a destructive force like that of a cannon ball due to the muscular and brawny arm that seemed to be simply specialized in hitting.

「Damn!」

I was already thinking that I shouldn’t take the attack. Even if this body has deviated from that of an ordinary person’s, it would break all of my bones and “kill me”.

With the air of the battlefield, the smell of blood. And in the middle of the feeling of mental strain pushed to the utmost limits, I remember the impulses I felt three years ago.

There was no way I couldn't be engulfed by those impulses. In a certain sense, it felt like something more troublesome than my Chuunibyou was going to be revived.

「For this Ulgan, in these forty four years of life in this world, this is the first time that I've been this out of breath.」

「I bet.」

The giant man tightly gripped his fist and was charging and preparing his next shot.

It's probably a certain kill attack. Even though he's a priest, he's trying to beat his opponent to death.

Jeez, the same goes for Bernadette but, aren't the people related to religious organizations a bit too suited to the fighting scenes?

.....No, at this point that doesn't matter.

「It's already been several months since I came back to this land. It's been a long time since I've gotten this fired up!!」

That's right, it's because what I sought for was a struggle to the death that made me burst out in blood and sweat!!

Translator's Notes:

[1] Not sure what this means: 地雷職.

Chapter 73 - The Preceding Hero and the Arena 3

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「Uooooohhh!!」

「Nuuuuuuhh!!」

Fist and fist clashed with each other and, *Pahn*, an explosive sound resounded. And then, in the next moment after that, the explosive sound once again resounded.

The fists continually collided with each other. If this were to be done by an ordinary person, their bones would probably break and they wouldn't be able to swing a fist. However, we, who were clashing on top of the stage, continued to keep on clashing.

Raising voices that couldn't disappear in neither the shouts nor the roars, two men clashed.

And then, when a remarkably loud sound had rung, a large distance was opened between the two of us.

Then, Priest Ulgan nodded as if he were convinced of something.

「I see.....」

「? What is it that you see?」

When I asked that, the priest in front of me made a forced sigh.

「Clashing with fists is fine but.....Why don't you use the weapon you're specialized in?」

「Ah, so you really did know about it?」

「Of course I would know. It's because, just now, we were truly talking with our fists.」

「It's not like I wasn't making a serious effort but.....I got it. I'll respond with all my strength.」

It was probably something of one of the fighters participating in the

Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration. I pulled out a long sword that had a length of about 90 cm that was stuck in the ground nearby.

「Fumu, as I thought, a sword, huh.」

「Pretty much. As I thought, the standard is the best.」

Twisting the upper half of my body making look like my back was in front from my opponent's point of view, I took a stance that made it seem like I was trying to hide my sword.

「Your stance is not one of the basics?」

「Hehe. It's self-taught.」

「Well, it's fine. For progress, there's nothing to do but gain total control.」

What came out of the priest's mouth was words that I wasn't expecting to come from a priest.

I strengthened my grip on the handle and bitterly smiled.

「Try taking it, this attack of mine!」

「I'll respond to it, that attack!!」

In the next moment after we exchanged those words, the hard fist that could smash even rock drew closer before my eyes.

Gou!!

The hard fist passed by right in front of my face together with a roar.

「What!?!」

「I've got you!!」

That extended arm and his fist only ended up sweeping over me. Holding back the guy's right shoulder with my left foot, I earned a moment before the instant the fist would reach me, and in the time of that moment, I turned the upper half of my body away with only the other leg and I evaded that guy's attack.

In the middle of my bad position to try and cut off that guy's extended arm, I raised my sword overhead.

But,

「Guh, uuh!?!」

I promptly moved not the sword but the shield, and defended against the left fist that the guy threw at me from the side.
No, I tried to defend against it.

「ㇿ, Gah!?!」

The shield broke, and while the bones in my right arm were breaking, that guys' intense body blow struck me.
My consciousness flew for an instant due to the intense pain, and in that instant, I was struck all the way out of the ring.

(Sho.....!)

Faster than I could think "Shoot", I kicked off the wall outside of the ring, the audience stands, and sprang back towards Ulgan.

「I'll knock you down!!」

Having greatly twisted his back, it was the thrown out attack of the destruction priest.
It was an attack that made it seem like you'd be blown away just from the wind pressure that is created at the time it was released.

「What in the worldddd!!」

Getting on that fist, and running up the arm, I threw a sharp kick at that guy's, at Ulgan's head as if I were trying to kick a ball and make it fly.

「..... ! 」

Maybe because he had fallen from that one attack, the large build that surpassed two meters made a sound and collapsed.

「Jeez, the world really is vast, seriously.」

If in terms of offensive ability while empty-handed, there's no mistake that this priest is of the strongest class among mankind.
I was surprised that there were still guys like this around.

「Now then, I wonder if Bernadette finished things up?」

Catching my breath, at the time when I tried to turn my senses to where

Bernadette was, I finally noticed the strangeness of my surroundings.

Right now, on top of this arena, there was only one group fighting. It was Bernadette and the fox jerk.

And then, the number of people remaining including me was four people.

「I'm surprised.....That number of guys, Ossan, did you defeat them all by yourself?」

On top of the ring, in a place away from Bernadette and the fox boy that continued to fight, having his hands resting on the pommel of a sword that was thrust into the ground as if he were waiting for me, there was a man on standby.

That man, who had a worn out knight's helmet and armor and an appearance that could either be described as being past his prime and being slightly aged or being middle aged, together with a smile, shot through me with those hawk like eyes.

「No, hahaha. Half of them were from the aftermath of the fight between you two.」

Not jumping in to interrupt, the middle-aged knight waited for the fight between me and the priest to end.

That appearance that made you feel his age and, moreover, that disposition that didn't try to hide the "fighting spirit" that seemed to be inversely proportionate to his appearance and made my skin prickle.

There's no doubt about it. This guy is also a battle maniac just like us. Loving to fight and looking like he'd go to fight with guys stronger than himself, he was a man skilled in battle.

「In other words, the other half was done in by you, right?」

The current me was probably expressing a provocative smile that the usual me would probably not show.

However, I can't keep it down. A series of battles with formidable enemies! This excitement, if you're a man, there's no way you could hold it down!!

「I had participated with no intention of going to the main competition

and only had a spirit at the level of testing my abilities but, ...At that time, your fight was shown right in front of me. Even I'd want to make an outburst of anger.」

So he sent out about half of the participants outside of the ring in an outburst of anger.

It's probably not my place to say this but, this person is also pretty strange.

「I'm sure you are inconvenienced from being able to use only one arm. However, this Falhart Enhans, even if you call me a coward and speak ill of me, shall knock you down!」

「That's just how I want it!!」

Holding the long sword with both hands and taking a knight's stance, Falhart roared, and I, as if in response to that, also shouted.

「Have at you!!」

Dah!, kicking the ground, the knight brandished the silver sword over his head.

「This guy.....A magic sword!?!」

The swung down silver sword. I understood that it was a magic sword in an instant from that sword's heterogeneousness.

——*Giin!!* (Clang!!)

I defended against the swung down Magic Sword making it look like I exchanged blows with it with the sword I gripped in my left hand.

Together with a high-pitched sound, the impact was transmitted to my arm, and, at the same time, I understood the Magic Sword's ability.

「ㄤ, Cost Down, no, that's not all.....This sensation is Impact Drive!!」

「Haha, so you've seen through it.」

It was a rustic sword with no showy ornaments. The power hidden within that sword was an ability that reduced the weight burden for the possessor. And then, the ability that increases the impact given to the opponent, Impact Drive.

With these two abilities operating together, a tremendous impact was transmitted to me.

Though, if it's an impact of this level, that time I received an impact from Terakio was still higher. However, even if I could endure it, the low quality sword I was using made a Pishiri sound as if it were raising a scream and collapsed.

「Magic Sword 『Sherazard』. It's a Magic Sword that a once famous blacksmith forged for the sake of a person they cared about. It is also my house's treasured sword.」

With the blade of my sword smashed, I threw away the now useless sword. Then, the knight, without pursuing me, thrust his rustic Magic Sword into the ground.

And then, just like how he was waiting for me at the beginning, the knight placed his hands on the pommel and looked at me.

「You possess one as well, don't you. A sword that either surpasses or is not inferior to this sword. No, an expert such as yourself, a user of the sword, there is no way you wouldn't possess one.」

It was already decided. However, in those words, conviction could be perceived.

That knight “noticed” that I possess a Magic Sword, without a doubt!!

「I want, to have a good match.」

And then, from that one phrase, the small anxiety of the fear of 「being exposed」that was in my heart was blown away.

「Treasured Sword 『Crystal Venom』. It's my magic sword.」

Thrusting my blue and green jeweled pair of swords into the ground, I confronted the knight Falhart.

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「Hou. I can tell with a single glance. It's a sharp sword that can rival my own Magic Sword!」

「The main materials for it are the body ores of male and female Basilisks and the magic eyes of the head of the harem. Although I'm not too sure about it since I haven't used it on a person as an opponent, but there is paralysis poison stocked up in the body ore used for the sword blade. You won't die from it, but it seems that you'll feel extremely numb, got it?」

Yuu held the blue jeweled treasured sword with his right hand of the arm that was broken and gripped the green jeweled treasured sword with his left hand.

In order to ascertain the feeling of the handle of the sword with his right hand, he repeatedly tightened and loosened his grip.

(.....Alright. So my right arm has somehow recovered to a level where I can move it.)

As Yuu was confirming the condition of his right arm, Falhart looked at Yuu looking surprised.

That wasn't unreasonable. In actuality, the bones in Yuu's arm were broken enough that it would be more correct to call them smashed instead of broken.

That arm was moving normally after a bit of time had passed. It would be unfair to tell someone to not be surprised.

「I'm surprised. Is that, that Magic Sword's ability?」

「Well now. That's a trade secret.」

Of course, it was a side effect of the Holy Sword's power. But even if his mouth was torn apart, he wouldn't say that.

However, a complete recovery seemed to be far away as his bones had a grating sensation and a suitable pain for that was running through his arm. Also, it seemed like it would give in if it were to receive a strong impact.

「Now then, it's the second round, Knight Ossan!!」

But that didn't matter. If it was just to move, there was no problem. He just had to get over the pain that would happen at that time with fighting spirit!

「Haha. Then let me say it again.....Have at you!!」

Drawing his sword from the ground, once again taking his stance, Falhart kicked the ground.

「ツ!!」

In response to that, Yuu similarly kicked the ground and closed in on the Knight.

With both of them dashing towards each other, the distance between both Yuu and the Knight shortened in an instant.

「Haah!!」

The Knight's Magic sword was swung in a horizontal slash. Yuu pulled his posture back from that, dodging with an angle of a forward-bent posture that looked like he was about to fall forward. In the instant he dodged, he twisted his body and as he was rotating, he drove the twin swords' attack into the Knight's chest. But,

「っ, Amazing.....! That "pull back" just now, it surprised me!」

It was an intricate instant of offense and defense. The Knight brought back the swung sword with a terrifying speed and defended against the attack of Yuu's twin swords.

「Well now, hahaha. I had planned on hitting you with that stroke, but to think that I would have to take a defensive posture on an incoming attack.....!」

Anticipating that Yuu would get in close, he probably did a swing that

was easy to bring back.

If Yuu's attack was even a second late.....,

「Damn it, this is just too thrilling!!」

My heart was throbbing from elation just like the elation I felt three years ago when I had struggles to the death with Agniera and the others.

Taking the Knight's back, Yuu held the twin swords in a reverse grip, extended the thumb, index finger and middle finger of both hands, and took a posture where he was stand on all fours while still holding the twin swords.

「Mu!?!」

When Yuu used all four limbs to jump to the right, the Magic Sword was swung down at the place he was just at a moment ago, and the arena made of stone was smashed.

And then, Yuu rolled over to face the Knight that swung down the Magic Sword and instantly closed the distance with Shukuchi.

「Zeraaahh!!」

「Haha, I won't let you!」

The Knight minutely moved his sword as if pouring out his swordsmanship and returned at blow to each of the continuous high speed slashes from the twin swords.

As each attack was poured out, Yuu's attacks became larger and the Knight's movements were gradually becoming sharper.

Decreasing the opponent's number of moves with the smallest movements, and earning the greatest number of moves, at the height of that ability, Yuu involuntarily laughed with a *Hehe* as he continued to press down on the Knight.

Improving with the treasured swords that he held in a reverse grip, he raised the speed of the continuous attacks.

Yuu's attack then changed from a line of orbital slashes to a point-aiming thrust.

「っ, Fierce!」

「Uooooooooooooohhhhh!!」

The fierce attack of a thrust that was fired with a speed that eyes couldn't follow and the defensive stance of the Knight that would continue to ward that off.

That offense and defense that was similar to a reproduction of the proverb of the spear and the shield had, without a single breath, collapsed in an instant.

Maybe because the place that Yuu had driven into was bad, or maybe because his concentration was interrupted from the intense pain in his arm, but the thrust that he unleashed with his right hand was repelled by Falhart, who had continued to wait for such an opportunity.

Falhart shifted into an attack!

Gou!

The strong sword that could smash the ground cut the wind and was swung.

In order to defend against that, Yuu defended with the reverse gripped green jeweled treasured sword that he held in his left hand.

An impact that was stronger than before ran through Yuu's arm.

Yuu felt a delusion that his arm gave in from just that impact, but he didn't care about that and focused on his next hand.

The blue jeweled treasured sword he grasped in his right hand. He "connected" that with the green jeweled treasured sword, and subsequently forcibly rotated the handle to the right as if he were cutting something.

「Wha.....!?!」

Knight Falhart's Magic Sword twirled around in the air and, Kashin!, it made a high-pitched sound and stuck into the arena. Far behind him.

「.....I give in.」

Shocked, but somewhat looking happy, Falhart looked at the deep crimson sword blade of the double-headed blade that was at his neck and

muttered that.



Man~, I'm the one that should be saying that I give up. I didn't think that he'd have enough ability to rival Leo.

If I continued cutting, there's no mistake that he would have defended against it all. That's why,

I needed an action that had enough impact that it would stop that Knight Ossan's movements with a 『thought』. Successfully surprising the Knight Ossan that didn't think that the two swords could connect, his movements stopped for only an instant.

Well, it was kind of a gamble. If the Knight Ossan didn't pause right there, he might have either done another attack or get into a defensive stance.

But, well, if I didn't go along with the bet, it probably would have dragged on even longer. That skill that was refined to a point that it looked like a sample seemed like he was dealing with me with ease and that fact meant that he had no weaknesses.

If we continued competing with each other head on, the day would probably come to an end.

「.....Now then, the loser shall bravely take his leave. However, before that, may I hear your name?」

Returning the Magic Sword to its scabbard, the Knight Ossan extended his hand with a kindhearted smile.

Come to think of it, the Knight Ossan did announce his name, didn't he.

「Yuu Yashiro. Uuum, ...Falhart, was it?」

「Enhans. It's Falhart Enhans, Yashiro-kun.」

When I held my hand out in return, Falhart grasped my hand with his gauntlet covered hand.

「Hahaha, it's been a while since I've felt so good. Well then, I hope to be able to have a rematch with you someday.」

The Knight Ossan, Falhart said that and then, while laughing, he

jumped into the ocean water outside of the ring. While still wearing his armor.

「Hey, you're going to drown, you know!？」

Just as I, having had experience with nearly drowning with my main equipment, was about to jump in to save him, I immediately stopped. While still wearing his armor, Falhart smoothly swam to where the other fighters were.

「.....Good grief, the world really is vast.」

Since he didn't use magic, I'm not exactly sure, but if it's in terms of sword technique, the Knight Ossan has something that could rival that of Leo, humanity's greatest warrior.

I still don't know everything about this world. This fight just now made me think that.

「Now then, it's about time things started to finish up, isn't it? Hn?」

As I was about to turn my eyes over to Bernadette's group, a black object passed by in front of my eyes.

Interested in it, when I peeked over at it, a waterspout was raised outside of the ring.

「Looks like things over there ended as well.」

When I turned my head to the direction that the voice was raised, the fox-eared, blond hair boy that was about my age and wearing clothes that looked like a dougi was showing a daring smile.

Chapter 75 - A Request for a Rematch to the Preceding Hero?

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Around the time the neighborhood got dark and it became evening, a large number of customers were gathered in Be Io's Guild and bar. Normally, it was mostly used by people related to peddling, but today, which was the day of the preliminary round of the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration, most of the customers were the participants and the ones that were watching.

With those kinds of people gathered, what they talked about was of course about the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration where fierce fighting had just unfolded.

Wouldn't the overall victory go to either the Heliott group's young master, Kuon Heliott, the male patriot that led the salvation of the Kingdom of Sazeland, 『The Middle-Aged Knight』 Falhart Enhans, or the priest that prefers getting physical that wanders around various countries, 『The Fist Priest』 Ulgan? is what people had thought. But a boy that defeated two of the previously mentioned people had appeared.

However, that boy had abstained from the scene that would determine the victor.

Though it was the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration that would determine the continent's strongest, surely no one expected that they would be shown an upheaval of this magnitude in the preliminaries. In the end, it was enough to raise suspicions that it was fixed game for the one that obtained the overall victory, Kuon Heliott.

There was little information on the boy that abstained from the victory that was right before his eyes,

- Black hair
- Picked up weapons on the battlefield and fought

▪ Defeated Falhart and Ulgan

Such things were common knowledge, but there was a certain person that said this.

That 「He wielded a sword with movements like that of a demon」.

Another certain person said this.

That 「He was a Berserker that gleefully fought as he was bathed in spurts of blood」.

Gossip was something that occasionally showed some exaggeration. One could say that a person's tension is raised once they learn of that gossip and because it is talked about with that tension, it can't be helped that the tension of the details also gets raised.

Not knowing that the boy of the maelstrom of rumors was face down at a table in the same bar, the night of the rumor-loving men continues today as well.



「.....I want to die.」

「.....Same over here on the right.」

Gathering at the Guild and bar for the sake of an appointment, “we” were face down at a corner table.

As for the reason why I was face down, it was because the two of us had let victory escape as well as let the chance to meet with Vodan-shi escape and I was self-reproaching myself for letting my tension go too high and going wild without thinking about the consequences.

What do you mean by demon, I didn't shower in the spurts of blood from any victims, dammit.

「Uuu, I'm terribly sorry.」

And, Bernadette, who was face down just like me, was depressed about how she had only become a burden.

Actually, Bernadette, being a severely hopeless swimmer, was saved by me as she was about to drown.

Because I jumped into the ocean water in order to save her, naturally, I was also disqualified. That's why she was depressed, thinking that it was

her fault.

「Sorry to keep you waiting. How did it go?」

The one that appeared with a stride was Kuushe the Centaur. During the time that we (at first it was just Bernadette) were in the tournament, she was gathering information in town.

「Unfortunately, we were eliminated. What about you?」

「.....It would seem that kidnapping were occurring even within this town.」

Making a small sigh from hearing that we lost, Kuushe lined up two chairs and sat.

「Even in this town? That's pretty odd.....」

「That's why, I had gotten my hopes up thinking that could certainly get Vodan-shi's cooperation for this case if we were allowed a meeting with him, but.....」

「I'm ashamed.」

「I am ashamed.」

When Bernadette and I apologized at the same time, Kuushe made a small sigh once again.

「Ugigi.....It can't be helped, we can only do our final measure, of breaking through the front.....」

As I was hesitating about crossing the line that I should never cross, I heard the surroundings getting noisy.

「Oi, those two.....」

「Well if it isn't Falhart Enhans and Ulgan! Why are you in a place like this.....」

Fearing that something might happen, customers moved their seats and the crowd of people in the bar divided like the sea did for Moses, and from there, two men appeared before my eyes.

「Ya, we meet again, Yashiro-kun.」

「You seem to be troubled over something. If you are fine with us, we could give some counsel, you know?」

「Falhart, ...-san and Priest-ossan!？」

The two men with bandages wrapped around them in various places on their bodies were the two people I fought against.



「I see, abduction, is it.....That is inexcusable. That matter, could you allow me to cooperate as well?」

「Same here. If you are fine with this Ulgan, I shall lend you a hand.」

When I talked about most of the kidnapping story, the two that were sitting down offered to cooperate with a speed that seemed like it was a snap decision.

「I'm grateful that you're willing to cooperate but, ...Is it really alright for the two of you to undertake this so simply?」

When I asked that, Falhart and Ulgan nodded.

「To begin with, I was dispatched to this town to become its new priest. The previous priest was a man whose age was past 70. I am still inexperienced, but I intend to contribute to the town's peace with all of my ability.」

Finished saying his passionate slogan, Ulgan drank the cold water that was poured into a cup on the table in one gulp. That was mine.

「Though I am aged, I am a knight. Those that walk the path of a knight do not just see fiends then turn a blind eye to them.」

Although he was smiling, he probably felt rage at the act of kidnapping. I noticed that Falhart tried to hide his right hand underneath the table, and the moment he did, his fist tightly clenched.

「That really helps.」

「So, what should we do?」

「Ah~, ...Actually, that's where we've come to our wit's end. Do either of you have any connections that lead to Vodan-shi?」

「To Vodan-shi, is it. Unfortunately, maybe it's because I've lived wielding my sword my whole life, I have so few of those you could probably say

that I none at all. No, if I were to rely on the princess.....I can't, I can't. When that person gets involved, things get worse.....」

Maybe because he had someone that came to mind, Falhart started muttering with a face that looked like he was being urged to make a choice between two extremes.

「I also don't have any personal connections, but I am a new person that has been entrusted to this town's church, and I was thinking that I should greet him at least once.」

「Ohh! Then if we were to go along with you at the time of your greetings then.....」

I had gotten delighted at Ulgan's words, but seeing Ulgan make a difficult looking face, I somehow noticed what he wanted to say.

「Were you refused as well?」

「That's right.」

When Bernadette, who had similarly noticed, asked, Ulgan nodded.

「Most likely, something probably happened to Vodan-shi. That atmosphere that makes your skin feel like it's being pricked seems to be coming from some high amount of wariness.」

I see. It's not that he's busy like they said he was, but he was most likely injured or something. And in addition, it was by someone.

I don't really know how things go in a dispute between groups, but they are probably on the lookout for assassins from the other group right now.

「Yeah. They sustained an assassination from the superiors of the kidnappers that you guys are searching for. To their fortune, the assassination was a failure. Vodan-shi had gotten off with some minor injuries, but because of that, the members of the group are now frenzied.」

Ah~, as I thought. Still, if that's the case, it won't be easy to meet with Vodan-shi now.

「By the way, Vodan-shi's son, Kuon Heliott, seems to be wishing for a rematch with you, Yuu.」

「Eh? By Vodan-san's.....you mean that fox-ears?」

「Yeah. It would seem that he was unsatisfied that he didn't fight with you. Don't you think that this is a godsend? If you at least have a match with him, you might be able to meet with Vodan-shi.」

「I see.....」

With there being so many things I want to forget, my tension was in the middle of dropping, but if that's what I need to do to meet with Vodan-shi, I've got nothing lose. Rather.

「Jean! Don't just suddenly participate in the conversation without any preface!」

That just makes it difficult for the readers!

DAN. Hitting the table, I glared at Jean, who just nonchalantly sat down into a chair.

「Oh, that was rude of me. My name is Jean Jack Eustace. I am pleased to make your acquaintance from hereafter.」

But, not looking like he was aware of the atmosphere, Bororon, Jean named himself while playing his guitar. As usual, he's going on at his own pace.

「In, in that case, I'll fight! This time, I won't show an unsightly appearance!」

Gata. The one that made a sound and stood up was Bernadette. Having lost to fox-ears, she's probably driven by the thought that she created this situation and her thoughts of self-reproach. Well, it's not like I don't understand Bernadette's feelings but.....

「No, you can't.」

「ㇿ, I absolutely won't lose this next time!」

「Ah~, no, you got it wrong. It's not like I don't believe in you or anything like that Bernadette. It's just, I'm bothered by the reason why he is so attached to me.」

That's right, that fox-ears wanted to fight with me. I don't know what the reason for it is, but it's enough for him to wish for a rematch.

「.....I, understand.」

Bernadette, who was depressed going by how she looked, sat down in her seat and cast her eyes down.

「It would seem that it's been decided. Well then, the agenda it noon of tomorrow. Let us meet again at the Heliott estate!」

The moment he said that, Jean waved his mantle with a Basah as he stood up, placed the cost of my milk that he had drank at some point I didn't know, and left.

Just when I thought he had suddenly appeared, he suddenly disappears. That guy is just like the wind. Wait,

「You didn't leave enough money~!」

He only left enough money for a single up of water!
I shouted towards Jean who I could already no longer see.

Chapter 76 - The Nun Saw

*

A period of time where the sun just risen and the air was crisp. While it was close to summer, an air that felt a bit chilly enveloped the town of Be Io.

At that hour where only a portion of people would get up, Bernadette had woken up.

「Fuah.....」

When she made a big yawn, Bernadette took off her sleep-wear as she got up from the bed.

If you wake up early, you should just go back to bed.

Yuu would probably say something like that, but it was the church's teaching that prayers to God needed to be done once the sun had risen.

When she dressed herself in her habit, she took out the plain rosary made of silver from her breast, faced the sun, and knelt down.

At the beginning of the day, she expressed her thanks for God's divine protection.

Having finished her prayers and getting up, any drowsiness was blown away from Bernadette.



I had finished my prayers a bit early, but because I woke up early, I had nothing to do. To put it simply, I free time.

I had the foolish idea of wondering if I could do anything for Yashiro-san, who had to fight because of me, but because I was told 「Don't make any food」 up until the time we came to this town, I even able to prepare breakfast.

.....Even though I made such a dramatic pose, I lost. Even though I'm the one that should have taken the full brunt of it, Yashiro-san was invited out of interest, and only Yashiro-san was made to fight. Because of

all of that, this current situation where I'm of no use at all is very agonizing.

As I was thinking about what I could do to be useful to Yashiro-san, I noticed the sound of a door opening from Yashiro-san's room which was right beside mine.

The footsteps were going far off, and then there was the sound of them going down the stairs.

It would seem that Yashiro-san also woke up early today. It's pretty rare for the normally oversleeping Yashiro-san to have an early rising.

Could it be that he woke up early from feeling nervous? Thinking that I could at least encourage him, I chased after Yashiro-san.

「Well then, I'm going to borrow the back yard, okay?」

「Please don't leave it too untidy, got it?」

「I told you yesterday that I was only going to lightly move my body, didn't I?」

When I was about to call out to him as soon as I opened the door, I heard a conversation between Yashiro-san and the innkeeper. Backyard? Exercise? Could it be, to unravel his nervousness? But, he said that he mentioned yesterday.....

As I thought about it for a bit, *Patan*, there was the sound of the door to the backyard being shut.

「Good morning, Innkeeper-san.」

「Ah, good morning. Are you also going to use the backyard?」

「?」

When I greeted the innkeeper as I came down the stairs from the second floor, he replied with a question whose meaning I didn't understand.

「It's not very spacious, but feel free to use it.」

Saying that, the innkeeper started sweeping the floor.

「Exercise.....Could he be doing push-ups or squats or something?」

When talking about exercises to be done in a place that wasn't very spacious, these were the only things that came to mind, but if it were these, I think it would be fine if they were done in his room.....I'll feel at ease if I just go and confirm it.

When I slowly opened the door to the backyard,

「Here we go.」

exactly right now, there was the appearance of Yashiro-san being naked above the waist!

(Wah! Wawah! Wh, why is he stripping!? Is, is it cause he's a pervert? Is it because he's a pervert!?)

I knew that he was a pervert, but I didn't think that it went as far as having an interest in exhibitionism!

No, I guess I can understand it a bit? Yashiro-san does have a pretty good figure. It's sexy. But, even so, it isn't good to be immersed in self-satisfaction from exposing it! It's unwholesome!

.....Could it be that he's doing this in the backyard and not outside because he's still a bit shy?

As I was thinking stuff like that, Yashiro-san took out a single sword from the pouch that was on his waist.

The blue sword blade was transparent like a jewel, and was glittering. I knew at a glance. There's no mistake that that was a 『Magic Sword』. And it was a considerably sharp sword!

Putting aside why Yashiro-san possessed such a thing, Yashiro-san gripped that Magic Sword with both hands, and started to slowly move his body.

「Those are.....practice swings?」

Raise it overhead, bring it down. Raise it overhead, bring it down. He started to continuously and earnestly repeat such normal practice swings.

However, when I took a good look at him, sweat was starting blotch on Yashiro-san's forehead. Even though he had only just started.

「Why is it that with only that.....」

「That thing Yuu is doing utilizes every muscle on his body. It's many times harder than a common exercise, you know?」

「!? Eu, Eustace-san?」

Being suddenly called out to from behind, I was surprised, and when I turned around, there was Jean Jacques Eustace.

「I don't mind of you call me Jean. Well, he's using.....or rather, I guess it's more accurate to say that he is checking them. He does that as a daily routine. In order to understand how far his own body will move. And then, in order to reconfirm it.」

Eustace-san said that while raising the circular brim of his feathered hat with his finger.

「Daily routine? But, I haven't seen Yashiro-san do something like this up until now.」

At the very least, I haven't seen it ever since I had met Yashiro-san.

「That's because he's been doing it early in the morning just like he is doing today. He might seem like he has a freewheeling personality, but in fact, he is diligent and hard working. He's the type to continue doing this sort of thing no matter what happens.」

Breathing a sigh that felt like it was saying "good grief", Jean-san sucked in a deep breath and,

Ban!

「Yuu! A nun that serves God is looking at the half-naked you and getting aroused, you know!? Don't you think that this is immoral!?」

「Just what in the world are you sayiiinnnnngggg!!」

He kicked open the door to the backyard and shouted.

A period of time where the sun had just risen and the air was crisp. Even though it was an hour where only a portion of people had gotten up!

Kuu, I had a lapse in memory! I forgot that no matter how great of a person Yashiro-san's acquaintances were, they were owners of personalities that conformed to that of perverts.....!!

「.....I, iyan」[\[1\]](#)

And then, speaking of the Yashiro-san in question, he covered his body with a pose that was like one a girl would take.

Translator's Notes:

[\[1\]](#) Iyan sounds much better for me. For those that don't know what it means, here it's a kind of scream of embarrassment.

Chapter 77 - The Preceding Hero and the Heroic Tale

*

「Like I said! You've got it wrong! B-by no means did I peek at you with shameless thoughts!」

「Ah~, yeah. I told you, it's alright. Look, Bernadette, you're same age as me, right? Being interested in the bodies of the opposite sex is very understandable. That's why you shouldn't let it bother you!」

「Uwah~n! It's totally not alright!」

A short while after being seen doing the independent training that I do early in the morning, even though it had already become the time to get the inn's breakfast, Bernadette was still continuing her explanation of the peeking scandal.

Her appearance of getting flustered with a bright red face was careless and cute. And so, I went and overdid it but.....

「Hahaha. Yuu, wouldn't it be alright to just forgive her already?」

I think that it's a bit strange for the perpetrator that started the Bernadette teasing to be taking that side, you know?

「Well, that's true. It's about time we get to the main question. Jean, you have a relationship with Vodan-san, don't you.」

Since I noticed that Bernadette's voltage was at its MAX, I'll change the subject.

When I asked that, Jean grinned with a meaningless pretty boy face. This silence is very much like him.

「Why didn't you just let us meet with him? If you were acquainted with Vodan-san, this could have all finished without the roundabout way of appearing in the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration.」

「Hahaha. To be completely honest, there is no reason more important

than the kidnapping problem that you mentioned, Yuu.]

「But, for you, it was something more important than something like “kidnapping”, right?」

「Of course.」

He Jean Jacquez Eustace that I knew was a guy that was more human than anyone else. Just because that true nature of his was not evil, he was a guy that was more selfish and self-centered than anyone else.

「You never change, do you.」

「And for you, you’ve changed a bit. If it was before, this is where you would have snarled at me. You’ve grown up, is that what I should be saying?」

「Don’t poke fun at me.」

Though, it is true that I’m no longer at an age where I’ll brandish a sword for justice or whatever nonsensical thing.

「Eh, eh? Wh, what does that mean?」

Bernadette had listened to our conversation and asked me because she didn’t understand at all but,

「Probably, Vodan-san’s Kuon, was it? If we meet with him, we’ll understand, won’t we?」

「That’s it exactly.」

I don’t understand it well either.



「「「Welcome, we’ve been expecting you!!」」」

「Wh, why thank you very much for that.」

What was waiting for us at the Vodan estate was a bunch of Heleott group members that amounted to dozens of people!

The wolf tribesmen, whose faces were scary enough that they could make normal thugs scurry home just by glaring at them, greeted us with several people.

.....Uwah, they’re totally glaring at us. Scary, that’s really scary.

「But Gilley has intensity to him, right?」

「No, well, that's true.」

Just as Jean said in a small voice, Gilley-Ossan had a much sterner face than these people, and also had ambition.

「But even though he does, why did he get married to such a beautiful woman.....」

「My thoughts exactly.」

I know that Gilley-Ossan isn't a bad guy.

But I really don't get the reason why he was able to get married with that face of his.

I guess Mareeda-san really is someone that surpassed being a goddess.

「Both of you, that's really rude.....」

Bernadette, who more or less knew of Gilley-Ossan, made a sigh while criticizing us.

「Hahaha. Well, let's leave our talk about Gilley for another time. Where would Kuon-kun be?」

「In the training hall!」

「I see. Thank you.」

Having finished up the conversation, when Jean asked the members, the members that opened up a path bowed their heads again.

Jean.....You, what in the world is up with this VIP treatment.

When we walked for a bit, beside the principal residence-looking building, there was a very splendid Japanese style.....Oi oi, why is there a tiled roof dojo that doesn't seem like it's around anymore in modern Japan erected here in this other world of Reynbrook?

「.....Fumu, so, as expected, we were noticed.」

As I looked at the dojo and was lightly surprised, Jean, who was next to me, muttered seeming somewhat happy.

「By “we were noticed”.....By what?」

「Since a lot of people came, our arrival was noticed by Kuon-kun who is

in the dojo. Goodness, though we weren't erasing our presence, that's amazing.」

「Oi oi, we're still at a pretty far distance, you know? To notice us just by our presence is.....」

「Your hearing ability is plenty abnormal, you know?」

「You idiot, this is a bad occasion to be “comparing” it with mine.」

My five senses were acquired but they greatly surpass those of ordinary people.

I possess senses that are at animal level, no, even greater than that.

To compete with my hearing ability and not be inferior is strange to begin with.

「What are you talking about?」

「Nn. It's nothing.」

Bernadette tilted her head from seeing us quarrelling with small voices. Naturally I couldn't just answer her with the truth, I answered like that and when I did, Bernadette pointed her finger at me.

「That's a lie, isn't it! Yashiro-san, whenever you lie, blood vessels rise to the surface at the tip of your nose after all!」

What kind of Stand-user are you.

If I were to take a surprised attitude and touch my nose here, Bernadette would probably make a ruckus and say 「You fell for it!」 or something. However, I naturally don't have that kind of habit. (Though, according to Sylvia, my eyes do seem to swim.)

Damn you, to try and make me fall for that even though you're just Bernadette.....Unforgivable!

「Same to you, whenever you lie, your ears twitch.」

「Eh!? Is, is that true!?」

「Ahh, of course it's a lie. But I did discover a blockheaded Sister that gets fooled when she tries to fool someone else.」

「Wha.....Th, that's not fair, Yashiro-san! G, give me another chance!」

「What do you mean “chance”, stupid.」

When I ignored the noisy Bernadette and continued on, I saw the figure

of a fox-eared blonde, Vodan-shi's son, Kuon Heleott, waiting at the dojo in a seiza position.

「.....? That person, he's sitting in a strange position, isn't he.」

Are you pointing out the seiza? When Bernadette muttered that, Jean did a small smile.

「If I'm not mistaken, wasn't that called seiza?」

「.....That's right, but why are you looking at me?」

「It's because whenever you were getting scolded, you'd always go into that sitting position, whoa.」

Pukususu. Getting in a kick at the back of Jean's knees, who was holding in a laugh while reminiscing, I stood in front of the dojo's porch while I knocked him down.

「Is it correct to interpret that I take my shoes off?」

「Hee.....So you also know of the manners of the training room.」

When I asked, Kuon Heleott muttered as if he were interested.

「Write down that shoes aren't allowed.」

While Bernadette controlled herself with her hands just as she was about to go up with her boots still on right beside me, I took off my shoes and got up onto the porch.

「I came here after listening to what Jean had to say but.....」

「Your coming here means that you're willing to fight me, right?」

Kuon Heleott's mouth was hung as if to say "I was waiting for this".

「.....Well, that's what I intend to do.」

「Then that makes the conversation quick!」

When Kuon Heleott stood up, gang members wearing dougis appeared. Their numbers surpassed ten.

And they gripped various weapons in their hands. Swords, spears, axes..... there was even a maniac-like weapon, the iron-ribbed fan.

「Choose whichever one you like. They are bladeless.」

No, I wanted something that wouldn't hurt even when struck by it like a wooden sword (though a wooden sword would hurt plenty) but.....Well, I guess it can't be helped.

「Since I have the chance, I'll choose this weapon.」

From the members (they came flying) that were lined up, I chose two weapons.

「!.....」

And then, the moment I held those two weapons, that guy's eyes changed. It was kind of like, he was a child that was given the Christmas present that he wanted.....They were those kinds of eyes. And then, I was convinced with that. The reason why Kuon Heleott knew my name and why he was so tenacious about fighting with me.

「Yeah, that's right. This is my original stance.」

I took a stance as if to show it off to Kuon Heleott.

A dual-wielding of a sword and a spear.

It was my original stance that I furnished in the fights up until I sealed the Demon King three years ago and that was ingrained into my body. It was a daring stance that I had worked out from the enigmatic theory of "Short distance and mid-distance, since it could cope with both of these, it's the strongest!" that I had back in those days.

It was a general purpose stance that I had arrived at in order to use four-legged movement, Shukuchi, and a bunch of others things that I, who was in full blown Chuunibyou at the time, had come up with.

「The 『Flawless **【Kamui】** Stance』^[1].....A completely nonsensical naming sense if I do say so myself.」

The spear was at my back, and the sword tip was pointing at my opponent.

While getting a bad feeling from Kuon Heleott who was looking at me with sparkling eyes, I made a side long glance and peeked over at Jean. That's how it was, you are a minstrel after all. You probably called it a

heroic tale, sung it, and taught it him, didn't you~.

I'm definitely going to beat the crap out of you after this.

Seeing Jean who was holding a feather pen and blank paged hard cover book and was delightfully smiling, I swore to do such.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Original: 天衣無縫【神威(カムイ)】の構え. 天衣無縫 could also be read as “perfect beauty with no trace of artifice”. And 神威 could be read as “god's majesty”, “god's authority”, or “might of Heaven”.

Chapter 78 - The Preceding Hero's Technique

*

「Since you've shown me that stance, is it alright for me to take it that you're going to go all out?」

In response to Kuon, who asked that as if to make sure of it, I waved the tip of my sword.

It was a provocation of 『Come at me』.

「Fine by, meee~~!!」

Thereupon, Kuon expressed a fearless smile, changed his clenched fist into a knifehand, and ran towards me.

There was a *Dodododo* sound from him running on the wooden floor, and in the next instant, Fu, the footsteps vanished.

「!？」

It was an instantaneous reaction. Seeing a shadow appear in the corner of my field of vision, my body moved.

Lowering into a position that looked like I was squatting, Kuon's kick passed over my head.

From my perspective, the kick that was sent out from the right was certainly Kuon's.

The moment he knew that I avoided it, Kuon unleashed a thrust with his knifehand.

When I stepped back a little to dodge, he immediately closed the distance and stepped into my chest like boxing's in-fighters would.

「You little.」

When I swung my spear to try and shake him off, he defended against it with one arm, and fired off another knifehand thrust.

When I greatly bent my upper body and dodged that with the so-called Matrix dodge, he kept his hand that was extended out from the thrust like that and swung it down.

With my upper body still bent, I took a large distance using Shukuchi (mine was just heavy work where I just kick the ground)[\[1\]](#) and dodged.

「Oh? I see.」

When I fixed my stance while I took my distance, my clothes seem to have been cut since the area of my clothes from my chest to my navel was torn.

It seems that I'll get seriously injured if I take him lightly from thinking he is bare handed.

「Was that thing just now, a real Shukuchi?」

When I was preparing to pursue him, Kuon, still in the posture where he swung his knifehand down, looked at me and hardened.

「Eh? Well, yeah, it was.」

When I responded like that, Kuon bent forward and in the next instant, Giin! (Clang!)

A shock ran through the sword I pushed out and the clashing sound of steel colliding with each other resounded.

「.....Though it's not something that you can learn just by watching someone, wha!」

A thrust fired with the speed of a Shukuchi. When I defended against Kuon put strength into his arm just like that as if he were pressing and cutting.

As I was locking sword to hand and pushing with a bare handed opponent, within that pitiful-looking situation, I cursed Jean.

(Jean, that bastard, he taught him the way to do Shukuchi, didn't he!?)

Shukuchi was a technique that Sylvia reproduced to imitate my feat of strength by making use of Maryoku. Naturally, it was only something that

the people within our group knew of.

And as for why Kuon was able to use this despite that, probably (though I'm mostly confident) Jean had taught it to him.

The reason why he had me participate in the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration was probably to make me fight with this guy who was Jean's student.

That's roundabout, troublesome, and, most of all, I can't stomach it.

How he didn't teach it to an Onee-sama or a girl that was to my preference, but to a pretty boy!

「Guh!?!」

Lightly brushing Kuon away with a tackle, I widened our distance. When I did, maybe because he understood that he would be at a disadvantage if our distance widened, he tried to once again clad his feet in Maryoku but,

「I won't let you!!」

Stepping in until it was he was in the spear's range in one go, I held the spear in a reverse grip and fired a thrust with a speed that couldn't be caught by the naked eye.

It was an attack not with the spearhead, but with the opposite butt end part. However, he just barely avoided it.

But even so, I didn't mind.

I stepped in while swinging the sword in a horizontal slash at Kuon, who was trying to fix his broken stance, and then, gripping close to the spearhead, I fired a thrust.

Performing such simple actions as fast as I could, I unleashed the attacks with enough enthusiasm as I would when going "this is the end".

Despite that,

「Hien ashi! (Swallow in flight leg)」[\[2\]](#)

jumping up with the spearhead as a foothold, the guy fired a kick that was aimed at my head!

「What an agile guy!」

He came doing stuff like an acrobat. Well, going by his physique, I didn't think that he was a power fighter that did something like fighting head-on. After all, even though he's a man, he has a slender body like that of a prince in a shoujo manga.

When I stepped in even more while taking the kick with my forehead, Kuon, while changing his stance in midair, fired off an axe kick.

「っ!」

Slightly shifting my body to avoid that, I struck him down with the belly of the sword.

Kuon moaned from the pain, and made a loud sound as he fell down to the wooden floor. Moreover, when I prepared my spear to try and pursue, Kuon lowered his head and took the so-called dogeza posture.

「I give up!」

「Heh?」

I had thought that he was a battle maniac just like Agniera but, surprisingly, Kuon obediently admitted to his own defeat.

Since I had prepared myself to go through this right to the end, it was a bit anti-climactic.

However, maybe because he was plenty satisfied with our fight just now, there was no anger or chagrin within Kuon's words of "I give up". Rather, it sounded like he was delighted.

「Uhhm.....Is something like this alright?」

「Yes!」

Vigorously raising his head, Kuon's eyes were pointlessly sparkling. I'm getting a bad feeling about this.

「Please.....Please take me in as your disciple!!」

.....I knew it. I knew it would be this kind of development. While looking down on Kuon who had once again lowered his raised head, I made a huge sigh.



Translator's Notes:

[1] For those that forgot, Shukuchi is actually supposed to be done using

magic.

[\[2\]](#) Original: 飛燕脚

Chapter 79 - The Preceding Hero and the Sixth

*

「Hahaha. I'm sure that you've already noticed this, Yuu, but the Heleott house and the Shunev house which is my parents' home have been associated with each other for several generations now. I have been associated with Kuon-kun since childhood. That's why, three years ago, after the fight had ended, and around the time I came to show my face here in Be Io, I sung him your heroic tales. Once was about how you repelled evil, and another time was when you subjugated those that possessed wicked thoughts as a great, peerless man. Man, he was unexpectedly very pleased with them. He was annoying as he went "let me meet him" and "introduce me to him". Well, isn't it fine, having a disciple or two. It's not like you have anything to lose, right?」

This was the excuse when I cross-examined Jean. At this point, it's not even an excuse.

「Rather, what is up with that great, peerless man part?」

「As you'd expect, I couldn't possibly sing about you as the 『Hero』. I'd get killed by Her Majesty Sylvia.」

Just get killed already.

Now then, as for Kuon-kun (it's a bit embarrassing but since he didn't have any bad intentions, I'll change the way I call him) who seemed to admire the me of the heroic tales. Not intending to do a serious battle from the start, it seems that he just wanted to know if what Jean had said was true.

He said that while he fixed his slightly disarrange dougi.

「Rather, something like a disciple is impossible for me. I'm on a journey, you know?」

「You're heading to Galarie, right? In that case, there's no problem. After all, Kuon-kun has to go there as the district competition victor!」

After swept Jean's legs, who was pleasantly laughing with a *Ha ha ha!*, and throwing him onto the floor, I looked in Kuon-kun's direction.

「Yashiro-aniki!」

I'm honestly happy about how he turned a look of reverence at me, however, who the heck is he calling Aniki.

「Ah~.....Sorry, but let's postpone the whole disciple matter for now.」
「It's Aniki's request, so I don't mind. You want to meet with Oyaji, right?」

My, how honorable. I was thinking that he would say that he wouldn't let us see him if I didn't make him my disciple.

「I've heard most of the reason why Aniki wanted to meet Oyaji from Jean. It's not unreasonable that Aniki would be in a hurry!」

Saying that, Kuon was going to take the lead and guide us. Erm, he's considerably different from my initial image of him.
To think that he was such a nice and obedient guy.

「For better or worse, Kuon-kun has a child-like part to him. He'd do things with pleasure if it were to assist the hero that he admired, I suppose that is how it could be described.」

「That's probably just because of you exaggerating again, isn't it?」
「Umu. Because of that, he became very excited and requested this of me saying "I want to fight him by all means". Sorry.」

Making us appear in the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration even though it would have been fine just to make us fight normally, I understand very well that this guy uncooperative.

「It couldn't be helped, right? It's because while I am instrumentalist, I'm also a director.」

Jean puffed out his chest as if to say that it was natural. This guy's "My Pace" style is enough to match with Olivia's and Gilley-Ossan's older sister's style.

「As if you couldn't help it. Bernadette?」

When I let out a sigh from Jean's remarks, I suddenly realized that Bernadette wasn't coming along with us.

「.....」

Bernadette was standing still with her eyes cast downward. Did something happen?

「O~i, Bernadette-sa~n.」

「.....」

「You've got some nerve to be ignoring me, you stupid Sister.」

「.....」

「.....Now! Certain Kill: π Touch!」[\[1\]](#)

Munyu,

「Hyaah!? Wh, what are you doing!?!」

「Oh, so you noti-obuah!?!」

As my vision was rotating and my cheek had pain running through it at the same time, in the next moment, I was tumbling on the ground. It would seem that I received a slap in the face.

「What are you doing, you jerk!?!」

「No no, that's my line, isn't it!?!」

Bernadette hid her chest with both hands and her face was red. Fumu, it's the usual response. It would seem that she regained consciousness.

「So? What's wrong? Suddenly getting dispirited like that.」

「Th, that's.....Um...」

When I asked that as I stood back up, Bernadette hesitated to talk. What's this? Was she think about something that she couldn't talk about or something?

「Well, it's fine. Come on, let's go. We're finally going to meet Vodan-san.」

「.....」

Even as I urged her, Bernadette only turned her eyes away from me.

「Yuu. She has her own way of thinking. Let's leave her alone for a while.」

Jean said that to me, who was starting to get irritated from being avoided, in a small voice. Did Jean understand something?

「Got it. If you're not feeling well, head back to the inn, okay?」
「.....Yes.」

Bernadette nodded, then once again cast her eyes downward.



Parting with Bernadette, we arrived at Vodan-shi's study with Kuon's guidance.

When we sat down on a high class-looking black leather sofa, the study's doors opened, and after several men wearing suits came in, wearing a long sleeved haori on top of a kimono, a male in the prime of his life that had a face with a large scar on it came in. His pointed tip wolf ears told me that he was of the Wolf Tribe.

So, this person is Vodan-shi. Together with his face's scar, it's turned into a fairly scary face.

「I am the Heleott Group's Sixth Boss, 『Vodan Heleott』. You are the one that came entrusted with a congratulatory gift from His Excellency.....」
「Y, yes! I'm called Yuu Yashiro!」

Together with his cool voice, Vodan-shi's eyes turned towards me. I stood up from the sofa due to the intensity that surpassed that of Gilley-Ossan's.

When I timidly handed over the box with the bell inside from the bag at my waist, Vodan-shi opened the box, and smiled.

「Well now, I really am thankful for His Excellency's consideration. Look Kuon, it's your bell.」

As I was being timid and scared, Vodan-shi's voice changed all of a sudden. It did a class change from a low voice that sounded threatening to a coaxing voice.

And then, the sternness of his expression was blown away and it became

a whole faced smile.

「Wh, who the heck would want to put on a bell!」

「But still, you're already 16 after all.....」

「Something like that, I didn't have one on because it's embarrassing!!」

The fox ears standing on end, red faced, refusing Kuon and the panicking while drooping his ears from his son losing his temper, Vodan-shi.

.....What is all of this?

「Vodan-shi's wife had died very early and he raised Kuon-kun as a single father. Maybe because of that or maybe because he was originally like that, he's greatly affectionate with Kuon-kun who is really similar to his wife.」

「I see, so it's like that. I couldn't understand what I was looking at for a moment.」

Jean informed me with a low voice as I was dumbfounded. And with that, I finally understood that Vodan-shi was doting parent kind of person. That's just how big the shock I received was.

「More importantly! Right now, we're talking about Yashiro-aniki.」

When Kuon, who was obstinately refusing the bell for some reason, tried to change the subject, my name came up.

「Yashiro-aniki, who should have no connection with the kidnapping that had become a problem even in our town as of late, is trying to find a solution to it! If we were to show ourselves with our fingers in our mouths here, it would be a disgrace for the Heleott group, wouldn't it? Oyaji, let's lend a hand to Aniki!!」

Kuon had talked about it with a light excitement, but Vodan-shi only lowered the pipe he held in his mouth and moaned.

A few seconds had passed, and just as Kuon was about to open his mouth again, Vodan-shi turned his eyes towards me, and slowly opened his mouth.

「Yashiro, was it? Sorry but I can't possibly mobilize the group for this matter. There is a reason why I can't.」

Within that sharp glint in his eyes, it was small but I saw a feeling of guilt.

Translator's Notes:

[1] For those that didn't get it, Oppai means boobs and he shortened it to "pai" and then changed it to π. Kept it at this instead of trying to figure out a way to shorten boob.

Chapter 80 - The Preceding Hero and the Agent

*

「.....Wh, what are you saying Oyaji. Don't say something so stupid!」

Kuon, who went absentminded from Vodan-shi's words, shouted while he struck his fist on the table that was placed in front of the sofa.

「There's a kidnapping uproar taking place in this town that we, the Heleott Group, are occupying, you know? Something like this, we can't just keep quiet about it, right!？」

Maybe because he had taken pride in being part of the Heleott group, Kuon strongly, strongly retaliated against Vodan-shi's words. But, Vodan-shi only glanced at Kuon, then returned his eyes to me.

「.....Could I have you take a look at this?」

Vodan-shi took out a folded up paper from his pocket and handed it to me.

When I opened the paper that was folded up several times, what was there was.....

「Ah~.....With this, it's impossible, isn't it.」

Together with a sentence that suggested the assassination of Kuon who was his one and only son, it was written that he was to keep his hands off of the recent kidnappings.

「っ, !?」

「When did you get this?」

Gripping Kuon's arm that had extended out together with my words, I asked Vodan-shi. Despite the fact that Kuon might be killed, yesterday, he appeared in the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration and went about as he liked. So most likely, today, that.....

「This morning. This morning, it was at my bedside.」

「I'm sure it was.」

Hearing the words I thought they'd be, I let go of Kuon's arm, and returned the letter back to Vodan-shi after folding it up.

Going by how he's a doting parent, he'll be wanting to prevent Kuon from being killed no matter the cost.

Since assassination was something that often occurred even in royal palaces that should have been firmly protected in both the past and present, it's not something that can be perfectly defended against. If magic is used, it's possible to erase appearance or sound. That raises the success rate of assassination even more.

He had experienced an event where they turned up the impact of it by going out of their way to place it at his bedside. His fear towards the assassination should have been raised dreadfully high.

「I'm sorry, but I can't move the group. I truly, am sorry.」

Maybe it was anger in regards towards the kidnappings that were occurring on his own turf, or maybe it was from the fear that his precious only son might be killed, he powerfully struck his own knee with his trembling fist.



「Kuh.....Hold it right there.....!」

Bernadette, who was a nun belonging to the Holy Ulquiorra Religious Organization and one of the units known as an 『Agent』, was running through the town of Be Io.

While pushing her way through the crowds of people, she ran with the full speed that she possessed.

Is she running away from something?

Nay. It was the opposite of that.

「At this rate, they're going to get away!」

Bernadette was in pursuit. Thinking it would be bad if they got away,

she pursued them while a cold sweat was on her brow.

「Nuah!?!」

「つ, Sorry!」

She was about to stumble from bumping shoulders with a passerby, but she ignored it and continued running.

But going through a crowd of people is difficult, and even if she caught sight of them, the distance between them would immediately widen.

Carrying a jute bag that had a size that looked like it could have a single child placed in it, no, right now, it was a jute bag that had a single child placed in it, the pair of men advanced through the crowd of people with practiced movements.

Compared to that, the “girls” weren’t really able to move forward due to the crowd of people.

「As expected, they’re used to this, is what I probably should say. Eei, how annoying!」

The young Centaur girl that ran together with Bernadette warped that elegant face of hers and looked unhappy.

「At this rate.....Kuushe-san! Let’s separate into two groups!」

「Two groups.....I see, we’ll attack from both sides, right?」

「Yes!」

「You go on ahead!」

Kuushe understood Bernadette’s intentions in an instant.

When she moved her chin and instructed her to go on ahead, Bernadette nodded and separated from Kuushe.

「I’ll leave cornering them to you!」

Maybe because it was said quickly, when Bernadette came to a stop looking like she was crouching, she jumped up onto a building’s roof with jumping power that easily let her pass over the building, and continued the pursuit from the rooftops.

.....As for why things turned out like this, we’ll have to turn the story back a little.

Chapter 81 - The Agent's Feelings

*

「.....Haa」

Parting with Yuu and making her way back to the inn, Bernadette made another sigh of the countless sighs that she made today.

Even her expression was gloomy and looked like she was brooding, and her usual energy clearly wasn't showing.

「.....To think that, Yashiro-san was, that strong.....」

For Bernadette, Yuu was a target that should be protected.

Bernadette thought that Yuu, who had equipment that couldn't really be called good quality and had said that he would 『travel around the world』, was unreliable.

For that reason, even though an order to return had come, she had said something unreasonable to the religious organization's headquarters and requested to be his escort.

She thought that she would protect him not just from Agents of the same trade, but also from monsters and night burglars, from all that would attack him.

.....But,

「I, wasn't needed, was I.....」

Bernadette and Kuon, it could be said that in actuality, they were pretty much on even levels with each other.

Although she didn't fight with strengthening due to the Magic Gun or with two guns, Bernadette had seriously fought with Kuon.

Their abilities rivaled each other, but suddenly getting hit from the back and put out of the ring, she lost.

Against that Kuon, far from fighting a good fight, Yuu didn't break his composure from beginning to end. (Though Kuon didn't look like he was going all out.)

Yuu was probably either the same as her or possessed even greater ability than her. The moment she understood that, she felt a sensation similar to the ground under her feet collapsing.

「Nn? If I remember correctly, your name was, Bernadette, right?」

Bernadette was walking in an unsteady manner. There was someone that called out to her as she was.

「You're.....」

「I thought that you'd be at Vodan-shi's residence about this time?」

A Demi-human with a lower half of a horse and an upper half a human, it was the Centaur, Kuushe.

When Bernadette survey the area where Kuushe noticed her, the inn that they stayed at last night appeared immediately before her eyes.

She didn't notice until Kuushe had called out to her.

「Going by how you look.....Did you guys fail?」

From Bernadette's appearance, Kuushe seemed to think that they weren't able to meet with Vodan.

「N, no. Around now, I think Yashiro-san has met with him.....」

「Yashiro.....that infamous human, huh. In that case, why are you here?」

It was natural that Kuushe was ask that question.

「I.....thought that I would just be a hindrance to Yashiro-san.....」

「.....」

Kuushe yelled out 「Crap」 in her mind from seeing Bernadette who was casting her eyes downward and had gotten into an even darker mood. The mood that Bernadette was clad in had changed into something heavy.

「Ah~.....So, yeah. I have something to report from my side. Mind talking while we walk?」

Bernadette did a small nod to Kuushe's words which were said to try and change the situation's mood.



「Fumu, I see. Still, I question the fact that you tried to kill him the moment you met him, you know?」

「L, like I said! That was just a mistake I made!」

While walking in the town of Be Io, Kuushe replied with a wry smile-look to Bernadette who was talking about when she had first met Yuu. For the current Bernadette that recognized that Hero ≠ Yuu, this was something close to being called her dark history, and her face became red.

「Well, let's put the jokes aside. Like that, since you created trouble for him countless times, you wanted to be helpful to him, is that it?」

「Yes.....」

To Kuushe's question, Bernadette replied with a voice that seemed like it was vanishing.

「.....If I had to say anything, it looks to me like you just arbitrarily did your best and arbitrarily got depressed.」

Kuushe, who had crossed her arms and thought for a bit, dared to say that with a tone that sounded like she was looking down on Bernadette.

「っ.....」

From Kuushe's words, Bernadette reflexively glared at Kuushe, but Kuushe continued on without minding it.

「Did that man demand anything from you?」

「N, no.....」

「Then there's no reason for you to worry about it. It's that infamous man we're talking about. He's probably satisfied just by gazing at your body.」

Bernadette laughed from Kuushe saying that with a wry smile.

「Ahaha. Since Yashiro-san is a pervert, that is likely, isn't it!」

Kuushe, who was relieved from Bernadette finally showing a smile, changed her facial expression to a serious one.

「Just a little while ago, there was a messenger. It seems that they've

caught hold of the whereabouts of the ones that were kidnapped in the town of Oltaine.」

「Is that true!?!」

「Yeah. I will also leave this town and head to Oltaine. I was also entrusted with the words of Ire, our patriarch, for you guys.『We are thankful for your cooperation with us despite being of a different species. May you have all the best in the path you continue down.』.....These words, I want you to tell them to that man.」

Saying that, Kuushe hit her fist on her chest.

「Y, yes. I will tell him!」

Doing an imitation of Kuushe, Bernadette hit her fist on her chest. When a bit of time passed as the two of them faced each other, Kuushe did a small *Fu* laugh.

「I hate humans. However, I didn't hate you guys that much.」

Saying that, Kuushe turned back. As she left, Bernadette involuntarily smiled at those words that were said so that they would be hard to hear.

「.....Eh?」

That smile froze.

Bernadette saw the moment when a pair of men put a cloth on the mouth of a little girl while pulling her to the back of an alley.

Chapter 82 - The Agent and the Mysterious Wizard

*

「.....Kuushe-san」

「Nn? What's wrong?」

When Kuushe turned around to look at Bernadette who had called her name, she saw impatience on Bernadette's facial expression.

「We “found” them」

「?.....っ!」

When she understood the meaning of those words, Kuushe turned her eyes to where Bernadette was looking at.

「.....So it's that.」

From the alleyway that was where Bernadette's gaze was looking at, men carrying a jute bag appeared. Taking two men to carry a jute bag whose size was big enough to hold a child, the men preceded through the crowd of people in a composed state as if they weren't doing something like kidnapping.

「How dare they go about so brazenly.....っ!」

「Please wait, Kuushe-san.」

The moment that Kuushe, who felt anger for the kidnappers, looked like she would start running at any moment, Bernadette stopped her with her hand.

「.....What's the meaning of this?」

Kuushe was stopped before the kidnappers. Not knowing the reason, she turned her anger for the kidnappers towards Bernadette just like that. As for Bernadette, she was in a composed state.

「Please calm down.」

「Calm down, you say? In this, situation, how dare you say that.」

「Of course I'll say it. Right now, it isn't a good idea to lose our cool in "this place".」

Nearby, although it was past noon, the pedestrian traffic was intense. If they were to denunciate the kidnappers here and now, the kidnappers would probably act violently. The damages would only get bigger.

「I understand how you feel, but please restrain yourself.」

「.....Roger.」

Looking reluctant, Kuushe nodded. When Bernadette saw that, she turned to the kidnappers, and started walking.



Like that, the two of them tailed the kidnappers, but, maybe having got an inkling of something, the kidnappers

「For me of all people to have done such a thing.....ㄟ!」

Bernadette was pursuing the kidnappers while jumping from one building top to another.

Having been discovered despite tracking them while consciously maintaining a reasonable distance, she groaned at her own failure.

「But, for now!」

How the kidnappers persisted in escaping without getting violent was a pleasant miscalculation.

Not having the time to squirm about in regret, Bernadette chased after the kidnappers.

「!？」

Bernadette was pursuing the kidnappers while jumping from one roof to another, but, responding to something black that suddenly crossed her field of sight, she jumped back.

In an instant,

Gooooooooohhhh!!!! (Thunderous roar)

the building that had become her foothold just a moment ago exploded all of a sudden, and blazed up.

「つ, what in the world.....っ!?!」

Having her field of vision snatched away by the flash, Bernadette promptly bent over and endured the blast.

What she saw beyond her blurry field of vision was a black shadow in the shape of a person.

「.....I see, that just now was the explosive magic, 『Explosion』.....High Wizard!」

Still in her stooped over posture, she drew both of her Magic Guns and pointed the muzzles at the wizard.

「For them to be employing a High Wizard.....It looks like they've put a lot of effort into this incident.....っ!!」

Randomly firing Maryoku bullets as a diversion, in the next instant, cocking the firing hammer of both guns, Bernadette turned the muzzles towards her own temple.

「Ernst! Paladin!!」

What was fired from the two Magic Guns was magic bullets. They were unique magic given the names of saints and were considered secret arts in the church.

「.....I see, so it's a dog of the church.」

The voice heard from the black figure was the low voice of a man.

「Dog.....It seems that you're considerably good at talking.」

What she saw with her “recovered” eyes was a man whose large build easily surpassed two meters and had his body wrapped in a black robe. Although his face was hidden in the hood and couldn't be seen, that physique and voice was unmistakably that of a man.

「If you want to pass, ...this is one of those moments, isn't it?」

When Bernadette said that while preparing her Magic Guns, the wizard

laughed with a Kutsukutsu.

「What's so funny?」

Bernadette asked while being suspicious of the fact though her opponent was a wizard, he did not hold anything that could act as a catalyst for invoking magic in either of his hands.

When she did, the man held his left arm out towards Bernadette.

「ツ!!」

Gachi! (Click!)

By reflex, Bernadette pulled the trigger, but the Magic Guns only finished with making the sound of the trigger.

「No way.....!?!」

Bernadette pulled the triggers making clicking sounds, but she then noticed the sensation of Maryoku disappearing from her own body.

(My Maryoku is vanishing!? Just, what.....!?)

The man showed a creepy smirk from seeing Bernadette panic from the sudden situation.

「.....Dogs, should just crawl on the ground.」

「つ, this is.....Sleep, magic? Why.....Ernst, should work on abnormal conditions,.....」

Ernst's true value was the continuous recovery effect that it continued to invoke called Regeneration. That effect should have been effective against abnormal conditions such as poison.

(Yashiro.....san.....)

As her consciousness was becoming hazy, a boy's smiling face flickered in Bernadette's mind.

Chapter 83 - The Preceding Hero's Sweetheart?

*

「Hn? Did you say something just now?」

「No, nothing at all?」

「.....I felt like I was called but.....I guess it was my imagination.」

After the discussion with Vodan-shi ended, we tied up Kuon, who passionately said that he would find the kidnappers even if he had to do it alone, and threw him into a room and then came all the way to the dojo to pick up Bernadette, but.....

「She's not here.」

「Yeah, she isn't.」

Bernadette's figure wasn't there. It would seem that she went back ahead of us.

「That rascal. Going back first.....」

I did say that it would be alright if she went back, but some part of me still didn't forgive her. It was because her physical condition didn't look like it was all that bad.

「Oya? You're awfully concerned about that girl, aren't you.」

Jean reacted to my words as if he were poking fun at me. The self-proclaimed cultured person Jean had shown signs of being a curious onlooker. He probably said that to fool around.

「It isn't like that.....hey, what is it?」

When I looked at Jean's face, who I thought that he had said that to fool around, his mouth was smiling, but his eyes were completely serious.

「That nun.....She's called Bernadette, right? Certainly, she does

resemble the “princess”. It’s understandable that you’d be charmed by her.」

「Ha? I have no idea what you’re talking about, you know?」

When I asked, Jean shrugged his shoulders and breathed a sigh as if to say “Good grief”.

「Good grief, as always, you’re a stubborn fellow. No one has the right to stop that awakening of love, you know?」

He really went and said it. Rather, what is he talking about, seriously! Maybe because he felt my irritation, or maybe because that’s what he was aiming for, Jean concealed his gaze with the brim of his hat, and said this.

「She does resemble Princess Olivia in some respects, doesn’t she.....Yuu.」

Olivia Fin Lutecia Leezelion.

—— Yuu-kun, what kinds of things do you want to do? ——

She had an appearance similar to Sylvia and Alicia,

—— You know~, I think something like a round-the-world trip would be cool! ——

decided people’s futures like that while laughing,

—— Then, I’d teach Yuu-kun about the things around the world! ——

and was a slightly older, regular, girl.

—— Don’t you think that would be a good idea? ——

「Stu—pid, there’s no way she is. She doesn’t resemble her at all.」
「Mu?」

When I replied, Jean raised his eyes as if he wasn’t expecting that answer.

「I mean look, Bernadette’s breasts can hold stuff between it, you know!? And even though just that is surprising enough, both her thighs and ass are sexy! Just hearing about this, even you, who was also in that “hell”,

would understand how amazing this is, right!?!]

Hearing my insistence, Jean blanked out for an instant, and then started laughing in a grand manner.

「Come to think of it, there was a time where you carried off the underwear of the female camp. That was a masterpiece. How you were making a fuss and said that 「The chest measurements are, astoundingly lacking!」 was extremely funny.」

Ugh. D, don't make me remember a past that I want to forget. The me of that time was having a shortage of erotic things.

「The scene where “that” Fiona along with Her Highness were trying to reduce you to ashes using flame magic had me holding my sides from the laughter.」

Ah~, Fiona, huh. That sure is nostalgic. The one called Fiona was Gilley-ossan's older sister and unlike Ossan who aged in a way suitable to his age, she was an Elf that kept a young and beautiful appearance that was a characteristic of Elves.

Naturally, or rather, inevitably, she also had tiny breasts.

「Even though Elves should hate the fire-type magic since they think it's a symbol of destruction.」

「That just shows how much you angered her.」

I don't even want to remember it. I didn't think that the both of them would fire the shooting style annihilation magic, Prominence Sagittarius^[1]. If Leo hadn't followed up for me, I would have turned into ashes. Though, I would have revived immediately.

「Well, that's how it is. Don't go and put Olivia and Bernadette “together”. Besides, Olivia's the only one for me.」

When I replied doing a thumbs up, Jean raised both hands and took a “give up” pose.

「I guess I should say that's very much like you.....Fufufu, it's my loss.」

I don't know what he lost to, but it looked like Jean came to an

understanding all on his own.



「Ohh, Yashiro-kun!」

「Huh?」

It was the time when we came out from the Vodan residence and were about to head to the inn.

I was suddenly called out to from the side.

「So you were around here just as I thought. How were things with Vodan-shi?」

When I turned to look, there was Falhart Enhans, and a woman that looked two or three years older than me wearing a dress.

「Uao」

The shock I received was strong enough that I involuntarily let out a weird voice. My eyes became rooted on the dress-wearing woman.

「I'm not exactly sure but.....Are you related to the Crestolia's?」

When I asked that, the woman opened her eyes wide as if she were surprised.

「You certainly are well informed. Yes, I am Crestolia's princess, Mary Fi Crestolia.」

Splendid blond hair rolls that reached down to her waist. Having unyielding eyes and brow. I said that because she was the spitting image of Henrietta De Crestolia, whom I had become acquainted with in Lizwadia.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Original: Written as 紅蓮の射手 (Archer of Crimson), read asプロミネンス・サジタリウス

Chapter 84 - The Preceding Hero and the Knight's Princess

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(They aren't as similar as Sylvia and her sisters are but.....yup. I can really sense the blood in them.)

This was pretty much the impression I held of Mary Fi Crestolia. Though the appearance wasn't as similar as those three sisters, from the ambiance she put on and the blond hair rolls, I knew they were either sisters or relatives.

「Did you know?」

Falhart, who was standing beside Mary-san, asked that in Mary-san's place.

「Ah~, I was in Lizwadia just before coming here, and though it was for a short time, I had taken a job teaching there.」

Consenting to everything that I said up to there, Falhart nodded.

「So you've met with the little sister. Certainly, the two of them are very similar after all.」

Ah, I knew it. So they are sisters.

「Hmph. I am absolutely not similar to a little sister that would bother with magic despite being royalty of a country of knights!」

Mary-san replied to Falhart's words with words of denial. Could it be that their sisterly relationship isn't very good?

.....No, I can't help but compare them to Sylvia's group but this much is probably normal. Probably. Most likely. Surely.

「So, why would that Mary-san be here?」

When speaking of Crestolia, it's a famous country that while being a

small to medium country was called the 『Country of Knights』, and seemed to a country that produced a great number of well-known knights. (That's what I heard from Leonhart in the past)

Why would the princess of that country be in a place like this?

Mary-san's face when a bit red for some reason from my question.

「I am on a premarital trip together with Lord Falhart.」

「Hee~, a premarital trip! Well, congratulations on that!?!」

When I replied while thinking that royalty and aristocrats probably get really busy after they get married, since there was a word that I heard in her words that I should let escape, I unintentionally let out a weird voice. What did she say just now? Who was she having a premarital trip with?

「Princess, more importantly.....」

Faster than I could pursue that train of thought, Falhart urged Mary-san.

But for me, I'd like to know about the details of that marriage, you know? Eh, a marriage with such an age difference? A princess that only a little bit older than me, with Falhart who looks like he's passed forty. Looking at the princess's response, it doesn't look like it's a political marriage of convenience but.....

「Ahh, that's right. Yuu Yashiro, I too, will lend aid in the matter at hand.」

「Eh? Is that alright?」

I'm thankful for the declaration done with a "How's that" face but, even if it's only for an instant, is it alright for the princess of a whole country to do something like that?

「Sylvia-sama, who is Leezelion's Imperial Princess, had resolved a great number of incidents like this during her journey with the Hero. I, the princess of the country of knights, cannot possibly be allowed to fall behind!」

Ah~.....Sylvia did joyfully do stuff like that, didn't she. Though her sense of justice was strong, most of it was for the reason of being able to act

violently in a legal manner. She did love to fight in her own way after all. She might have even appeared in something like the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration.

「Ah~.....I understand. I will leave the protection of you to Lord..... Falhart.」

Since it didn't look like she'd withdraw even if I refused her here, I nodded. Even if the worse were to happen, if Falhart's there, it'll probably be alright.

「Well then, without delay, just how far have you gotten? Have you caught hold of the enemy's location?」

The moment I consented, I was heavily questioned by the princess whose eyes immediately brightened up.

This person is unmistakably the same type of person as Sylvia.

When I did a simple report of what happened at the Vodan residence since there was nothing else I could do, Mary-san's body started trembling all over when she finished listening.

「To threaten him with his lovable family as a shield, what absolute scum! Things cannot stay like this. Lord Falhart, Yuu Yashiro! Accompany me!」

「Wait, oi oi oi! Just where do you plan on going!?!」

I reflexively talked in an unreserved way but this wasn't the time to be worrying about it. I called Mary-san, whose face was red from anger and looked like she was about to start running at any moment, to a halt.

「From one of the town to the other! If we do that, they'll try to escape, shuffling about like mice, and make an appearance, right!」

「There's no way that we can do something like that human-wave tactic with only a few people! This town isn't on a scale like that of a village, you know!? And Falhart, don't just watch, you stop her too!」

When he said that to Falhart while thinking that it was pointless even if he said that since he didn't try to stop Mary-san when she stuck her head into this, Falhart was pondering something with a serious expression on

his face.

「Yashiro-kun, that Sister.....Bernadette, was it? She doesn't know about the threat letter that was delivered to Vodan-shi, correct?」

「Nn? Yeah. I came to know about the threat letter after parting with Bernadette.」

Come to think of it, I wonder why Bernadette had such a sulky and rotten attitude.....Uumu, it's a mystery.

But, is this where I should just apologize for the time being? There is the possibility that I did something to make her angry.....

It's annoying to apologize even though I don't remember doing anything bad but, it's awkward if she stays in a bad mood.

「Yashiro-kun. This is just a thought but, she may have found the kidnappers.」

As I was worrying about how I should apologize to Bernadette, Falhart went and said that.



「Oi oi, what the heck is this.」

「.....It certainly is awful.」

Port city, Be Io. Coming to the main street that stretched out in a straight line from the harbor to the town, we stopped at a section that had become a heap of rubble.

As for why we came to the main street in the first place, Falhart said in the middle of when Falhart and Mary-san coming to see me, they bumped in to Bernadette on this main street.

However, it would have been fine if they had just bumped into each other. It seems that Bernadette looked desperate as she chased after something. By some chance, she might have happened to be present at the scene of a kidnapping. That being said, when I had them tell me the direction Bernadette ran off to, we came to the actual place but.....

「This isn't just two or three buildings. It looks like they were blown up all together.」

We were looking a bit away from the curious onlookers that gathered for the incident but, it was a miserable state that made one wonder if it took a bombing or something.

Probably being people of the town, several Demi-humans were doing rubble removal work.

「Hey, excuse me! What in the world happened?」

I called out to a man of the Dog Tribe that was nearby. When I did, the man said 「That's what I want to know! By the time I noticed, the flames had risen!」 with agitation in his voice.

When the man that looked agitated tried to take a closer look, the crowd of curious onlookers advanced forward. I exchanged looks with Falhart. Saying 「What do you think?」.

「Eight or nine times out of ten, there's probably no mistake it was a magician. Several high ranking magicians at that.....」

To Falhart who exchanged looks with me to say 「Let's hear your opinion.」, I replied with a nod.

「I'm of the same opinion. It's just, the question is why did they fight in the middle of town.....」

「I believe that it's likely related to the current case of the kidnapping uproar. Wouldn't that make it the kidnapper that Bernadette-kun was chasing?」

「In that case.....does that mean that Bernadette fought them?」

I once again looked at the heap of rubble. If she were dragged into the building, then there's no mistake that she would have died.

Thinking that, I forcibly pushed aside the crowd of people and ran towards the heap of rubble.

「You're kidding.....This is all a joke, right!?!」

Kicking and flinging away rubble that looked like it would take a large amount of people just to lift, I started to dig with an absurd fear while wishing that.

And then, I unexpectedly quickly found that.

「These are.....Bernadette's, Magic Guns.....」

What appeared from underneath the rubble was the two handguns that Bernadette habitually used. That showed without a doubt that Bernadette fought here and was “proof of her defeat”.

Chapter 85 - The Preceding Hero is an Underwear Thief?

*

「Yashiro-kun.....」

From behind Yuu, Falhart called out to him with a worried sounding voice.

However, the current Yuu didn't have the time to pay attention to that.

(.....For there to be this much damage while having no one notice it, it was because Recognition Obstruction and Silent magic was casted. There's no mistake about that. There's no mistake. Since there are signs that a portion of the rubble was melted with a high temperature and broken with a blast, there's no mistake that what created his heap of rubble was an explosive type of magic. Looking at the empty cartridges in the Magic Guns, Bernadette should have also used magic. She should have. A magic battle had happened here. It did! Yet, why can't I feel any "Maryoku"?)

That's right. Yuu's unrest was used up by this one sentence.

In this world, Maryoku existed. One could say that there is no place in this world where Maryoku couldn't be felt.

However, here, he couldn't feel any Maryoku to the point that one could say there wasn't any at all.

And then, to not feel Maryoku, in this place, in this situation, this was without a doubt impossible.

Several magics should have been used. Excluding a portion of magic, fundamentally, magic made use of Maryoku that originates from within the body.

And then, by using that, the miracle called magic manifests in the world. As long as magic has been used, the vestiges of Maryoku should be felt.

It was because of this that Lililuri, an Elf which is a race that oversensitively reacts to Maryoku, sensed Maryoku at Gold's workshop, who was a Magic Sword blacksmith. (Incidentally, Yuu didn't notice.)

He didn't feel any of that at all in this place.

「.....No, I guess there's no need to wonder about this to myself at this point. No mistaking it, this is Snatch.」

The current situation where the surrounding Maryoku is thoroughly stolen away is something that Yuu had experienced before.

「That bastard.....So he was alive.」

When he muttered while holding down the impulses that were boiling up, Yuu snorted his nose and started to sniff the surrounding smells.

「Since it's that bastard we're talking about.....Ahh, I knew it. There's no smell of "blood" burning.」

The stench of an occasion of a person being burned is something that those who have experienced the battlefield have smelled before. Maybe because he knew that stench wasn't in this place, he muttered as if he were relived.

「I guess it's better just knowing that Bernadette is alive. That son-of-a-bitch.」

He clicked his tongue while picking up Bernadette's Magic Guns and putting them in his waist pouch.

「Is she safe?」

「Yeah, there's "no mistake" that she's alive.」

Replying with words of confidence, Yuu, after surveying the area two or three times, took a big sigh and separated from the heap of rubble.

「Where are you going?」

Noticing that Yuu started walking with a definite manner of walking where his determination could be felt after leaving the heap of rubble, Falhart asked. He thought "Does he know the location", but the only things that he understood from Yuu's monologue was Bernadette's safety

and the existence of the magician that had probably fought with Bernadette.

Therefore, they didn't know their whereabouts. Despite this, Yuu started walking as if he obtained the answer. One could say that it was natural to think that question.

Stopping his feet from Falhart's question, Yuu looked over his shoulder. With those eyes of his dyed in the look of resolution.....——

「I'm going to rescue Bernadette.」

Holding panties with a bear drawn on it that he pulled out of who knows where in one hand, Yuu, still looking determined, started walking.

「Hold it right there.」

「Wait a moment.」

「Eh?」

Yuu probably thought that he decided the scene in a cool way but naturally Falhart and Mary stopped him.

「First of all, could I have you explain who the owner of that underwear is and why you are in possession of them? If possible, I would like for this to end peacefully but, if you don't answer me truthfully.....I shall also have to prepare for the worst.」

「W, wait, wait a second. Don't treat me like an underwear thief! There's a profound reason for this, if I don't have this, I won't be able to search for Bernadette!」

「How is that underwear related to any of this?」

「It's the scent.」

「「Scent?」」

“Is he telling lies out of desperation?” is what the two of them thought, but Yuu continued on without looking like he was in unrest.

「My sense of smell, if I put my mind to it, can exhibit an ability greater than that of a dog's. And so, the clothing where a woman's aroma is left behind is without a doubt underwear. In other words, by sniffing the scent of the underwear, I can ascertain Bernadette's location! It's freshly washed but it's not like it was done with Japan's detergent, so there more than enough of the aroma remaining! And then, if Bernadette was captured by the kidnappers, we'll also be able to save the people that those guys kidnapped!」

Yuu showed an “in your face” look that totally said “how's that!”, but the two that didn't know about the height of Yuu's five senses turned looks of doubt towards Yuu.

「Guh.....Then, then I just have to show you.....Nn?」

Yuu spread open the underwear and tried to bury his nose in the crotch but, suddenly noticing something, he averted his eyes from the two.

「Nn? You're」

Attracted to the same direction and averting his eyes to it, what Falhart saw was young man in a large brimmed black hat adorned with a richly colored feather and wearing a black mantle that was the same color as the hat. In his hand, a pure white cloth that was unbalanced with his appearance was gripped.

It was Jean Jacques Eustace.

The Jean that normally displayed an aloof of the world appearance was raising his shoulders up and down and stood with his breath thrown out of order.

At almost exactly the same time that Falhart thought the question “What could have possibly happened?”, Yuu and Jean both simultaneously opened their mouths.

「Bernadette was swept away by 『Zephyr』.」

「Kuon-kun snuck away.」

The two that had reported together had faces that looked like they had just chewed on something bitter.

Chapter 86 - Fox Youngster, Infiltration

Start

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In the port city of Be Io, there exists business-use harbors mainly meant to be used for fishing and trading goods.

「What do you mean “for my sake”. Both Oyaji and Jean want to do nothing but keep me at a distance. And on top of that, keep me away from Aniki as well.....I’ll absolutely triumph over them.....っ!」

Maybe it was to prevent collisions of ships with different objectives, the harbors were created with a lot of distance between them. On a harbor of the trading goods side, there was the figure of Kuon clad in black clothes that looked like they were meant for a ninja.

There was the figure.....Even though that was said, naturally, it’s not like he was boldly walking on the path.

Without making a sound and erasing his presence, he continued on though the dead spaces of the buildings.

「If it’s this side, the “results” came out but.....it needs to be investigated in more detail.」

When he said that, Kuon pulled down the cloth that covered his mouth and opened his mouth.

「Fu! I’m counting on you, Pipe Fox. 」[\[1\]](#)

When he breathed out while holding a tobacco pipe with a metal tipped stem that he pulled out from his pocket, a single fox cub appeared from inside the pipe.

A technique handed down from the distant eastern lands, it was a 『Shikigami』.

Shikigamis summon spirits with substances and concepts as a medium and is a kind of magic called Spiritism. To put it simply, it’s a familiar.

Because the Pipe Fox that was Kuon's Shikigami was summoned with the smoke as the medium, it possessed the special characteristics of smoke.

When the fox cub of smoke nodded, it grandly spread out, and after it became thin enough that it couldn't be confirmed by sight, it started to move.

「Now then, it'd be great if it were a strike but.....I am bad at divination after all.」

When he hid himself while making a wry smile, the pipe was suddenly pulled.

「Bingo! As expected of me!」

Kuon, who took a triumphant pose while still erasing his presence, started to move as if he were a fish caught on a fishing line and followed the pipe that pulled him.

「.....So this is the place.」

The place that he finally arrived at was a warehouse where things like imported goods would be temporarily stored before they went through customs clearance, and it was often used up until about three years ago when the circulation of goods of the world where the Demon Lord had materialized was in chaos, but now that things have become peaceful and because the circulation of goods stabilized, it is one of the warehouses that are no longer used.

Although it's inspected every several months, since it was almost never used and would only take up maintenance costs, there were considerations to demolish it but.....

Kuon raised his mouth cloth, and when he covered his mouth, he infiltrated through the air vent that was on the other side of the warehouse while erasing his presence.

When he smoothly continued through the air vent whose width barely allowed a single person in, he finally reached the cover of the exit of the air vent inside the warehouse.

「.....!」

「I've hit the jackpot.」

He didn't know what the subject was but he heard voices that sounded like they were quarreling.

A conversation of people in a warehouse that shouldn't have people in it. Without a doubt, it was the group of kidnappers.

When he looked at the interior of the warehouse from the shutter-shaped air vent, the surroundings were nothing but boxes made of wood.

「Yotto.」

Grasping that there wasn't anyone in the surroundings, he gently came out from the air vent and hid in the shadow of a wooden box.

「 ! ! 」

「Oh~ oh~, they're going at it, they're going at it. Is it a falling out?」

Hearing that the quarrel was starting to get violent, Kuon involuntarily grinned. Getting interested in what kind of quarrel it was, when Kuon was about to get closer, a remarkably loud voice resounded inside the warehouse.

「Doing something like this.....I'm sure you people will never be forgiven. No, as an agent of divine punishment, I, will not allow this!!」

(Could that be.....Aniki's companion!?)

When he reflexively leaned his body forward and peeked at the voice he was familiar with, what was there was the figure of Bernadette suspended from a chain that extended down from the ceiling and that had bound both of her hands.



The first thing Bernadette saw when she woke up was the looks from the vulgar-looking men.

「Looks like you've finally woken up, Sister-chan.」

The leader came up and out from among the men. His height was tall but since he looked weaker than the surrounding men,

he was probably something like an employer.

Stretched out with both hands and feet bound, Bernadette looked up so as to glare at that man.

「.....This is the worst awakening that I've ever had up until now.」
「Well, good for you.」

The man that showed a nasty smile put out some kind of signal with his hand.

When he did, a jangling noise sounded, Bernadette's arms slowly raised, and she became suspended in midair.

「I can't really say that this is a very good hobby.」

Several men started to smirk from Bernadette's anguished expression from the rope eating into her hands and from how she tried to firmly conduct herself.

「っ.....The ones that kidnapped the Centaurs and the people of this town were you people, right!?!」

An unpleasant feeling like bugs crawling ran down her spine from the men's eyes. The men's glaring eyes didn't see her as a single human being, but as a woman meant to be an outlet for their lust. Having experienced being exposed to those kinds of eyes many times, Bernadette felt that it would be a poor plan to keep silent and asked that to buy some time.

「That's correct. We can make a profit from Beastmen brats after all.」
「! The reason you kidnapped those pure children was.....for money? Do you people not have the thing called shame!?!」

Enraged by the man's words, Bernadette, the glint in her eyes becoming sharp, shouted as if to roar.

「Doing something like this.....I'm sure you people will never be forgiven. No, as an agent of divine punishment, I, will not allow this!!」

The words of blame that Bernadette threw out. The men's attitude changed from those words. The faces that expressed smirking smiles

hardened, and next, anger appeared.

That was natural. Being told this by someone whose hands and feet were bound, unable to do anything, and who was in a low standpoint, probably anyone would think 「She's getting cocky」.

The men then looked like they were going to attack her at any moment but,

「You scumbags.....Don't be getting excited.」

they kept silent from a single man's words.

「This woman, is my guest.」

It was the man who was wearing a black robe since the beginning, the magician that defeated Bernadette.

The men that were the kidnappers all meekly obeyed this man who gave off a bloodlust that prickled the skin.

「.....What's the reason for why you abducted me?」

「Kukaka.....Don't lose your temper like that. I didn't have any thought of anything like taking and eating you. I'm just having you take the role of bait for a bit.」

When the male magician took out a large staff that was about his height from inside his robe, he pushed that up against Bernadette's abdomen, and slowly moved it upwards.

From her naval, pushing up her breasts, the place it finally arrived at was her head.

「It's the first reunion after three years. It'll be a touching reunion, don't cha think?」

Inside the robe, the pair of eyes that were a deeper, darkish crimson than the color of blood were gazing at someone that wasn't Bernadette.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Original: 管狐. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuda-gitsune>

Chapter 87 - The Double Crossing Sorcerer

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「Reunion? Just who in the world are you reuniting with?」

When she harbored a question for the words that were probably not directed at herself but for someone else, Bernadette asked.

「Kukakah, fellows that are slow to understand usually get hated, you know? He might not look it but that guy, 『Yuu Yashiro』 is a smart guy.」

Maybe because he was happy about the subject of the question, the man joyfully talked, but Bernadette's focus wasn't directed at the man.

「Yashiro, san? You, and Yashiro-san?」

Those were the words that unintentionally came out.

Yuu and that man, whose face that was hidden in the dusky shaded hood was warped in rejoice, just could not be connected in Bernadette's mind.

Bernadette already did not think of Yuu as an ordinary person. But, being told that the man in front of her who was showing a half-mad smile and Yuu were acquainted, she realized that she didn't know much about Yuu, enough for doubts to come to her mind. She knew too little about him.

Enough for her to be surprised that he had once interacted with a lunatic like this.

Enough to make her think that it was some kind of, mistake.

「Please stop it with the jokes. Why would Yashiro-san be acquainted with a criminal like you? Yashiro-san is a bit lewd and a pervert, but he thinks about how he can be useful to someone and is the owner of a fine heart. He's different from people like you, scum that rests your laurels on top of accumulated misfortune of other people!」

Bernadette declared that while scowling at the deep crimson pair of eyes, but she reflexively gulped from the appearance of the man that

received those words.

He was smiling.

「I did think that it might be possible but.....it seems that you really don't know anything. Both his true nature and his way of life.」

Nitaa. (A sinister smile).

For the man that greatly raised the corners of his mouth and smiled, Bernadette experienced fear.

「Yashiro-san's.....True nature?」

「That's right. Yuu Yashiro's true nature.」

Inside the man's murky pupils, something glittered.

Ecstasy.

That word crossed Bernadette's mind.

「Good person, bad person. That guy can't be expressed by those alternative words. That guy's true nature is the very thing that 『humans』 ought to be which contains the contradiction of sometimes moving by calculating profit and loss, and at other times moving without paying attention to gains and losses. However, despite being like that, there is something consistent in that guy's actions. It's 『conviction』. That guy will never do something that contradicts himself. He wouldn't betray what he thought was right even if he died. Look, a contradiction was already produced. But that is exactly what the thing call humans do. Having no connection to both good and evil, because he is a 『Human』 full of contradiction, his existence is most appropriate for the 『Sacred Sword』.」

The man talked as if he could go on forever. In the middle of his talking that was already close to something like worship, Bernadette caught onto some words that she absolutely could not let slide.

「Sacred.....Swor, d?」

「So, you really weren't informed.」

The man replied with a smile to Bernadette who muttered as if she had

just seen something that was unbelievable.

「The Sacred Sword.....If I'm not mistaken, he called the Sacred Sword 『Al』.『Tenma Ruination』^[1], the summit of swords that bisects every possible object and vanishes. Proof of a lineage of a soul continuing since the age of the gods. I can agree as to why the church views him as an enemy of god. He does possess enough power to be able to annihilate the armies of this world “all by himself” after all.....」

Being told that much, there's no way could have not noticed. However, Bernadette didn't want to believe it.

「That's a lie! That Yashiro-san is the 『Hero』!」

The Hero. He was a divine threat that, while being close to the nearby Amateru^[2] that served God, let that Amateru die without helping, and moreover, mocked and looked down upon God. He may be advocated as the great man that defeated the Demon Lord throughout the world, but to believers starting with Bernadette, he was an enemy that couldn't be allowed to live.

Certainly, they had the same first and last name, and his appearance was just as the information that arrived at the church had said. Normally, there would be no way that she would think he was something like 「a complete stranger that looked really similar」.

But there was a huge reason why Bernadette didn't kill Yuu.

「I received an authorization from Archbishop-sama. There's no way Yashiro-san is the Hero!」

This was it.

In regards to the Holy Ulquiorra religious organization, within the rankings, the highest is naturally the「Pope」. Following that is the Cardinal, Archbishop, then Bishop.

Within the religious organization, there is a great man that once traveled together with the Hero. Now in the position of an Archbishop, Bernadette reported to him about Yuu before departing from Lizwadia, but being clearly told that they were different, she was even told to protect the

unrelated Yuu.

「Hou, that's pretty rare for Yazuul. To think that he'd protect that guy. And here I thought he was an Amateru supremacist.....」

Coming to this point, Bernadette finally harbored questions about this man's existence.

There was only a single Pope and Cardinal each at a time, but there existed several Archbishops and Bishops. It's true that normally when one uses the name of an Archbishop, their name would have to be attached and not just their rank, but the man in front of Bernadette specified the person just by her saying "Archbishop".

「.....Just who are you?」

This man knew too much. About the Sacred Sword, about the Saint, and about the bishop who traveled with the Preceding Hero's troupe and who was Bernadette's boss.

From his many words that sounded like he was a person that was deeply connected with them, there was a mysterious power that sealed Bernadette's magic. This man's eeriness, was abnormal.

「My magic is.....!? Could it be, the reason why I couldn't use my magic that time was.....」

Knowing about the Sacred Sword, knowing about Amateru, and then knowing about Archbishop Yazuul who was one of the heroes that saved the world, Bernadette knew of the person who would know all of that and who carried the unique ability to 『snatch away』 Maryoku in his body.

「『The Betraying Sorcerer, Zephyr Jiinecarsel』!! To think that I would encounter the grave sinner that defiled Amateru-sama's body with a blade.....ツ!! Prepare yourself! I'll turn that body of yours into a beehive and make you fish food!!」

Zephyr Jiinecarsel. Once a heroic figure that also served as the leader of Leezelion's Imperial Court Mages, he was one of the people that traveled as the Hero's troupe in order to subjugate the Demon King, but, betraying the troupe in the middle of their journey, he was a heretic that placed an

unhealable wound on the back of his former master, Amateru Olivia.

Due to him being a person she was not expecting, Bernadette completely lost her cool and shouted at Zephyr. But Zephyr only replied with a smile to all of that.

「Calm down, calm down. But still, can I have you believe me with this? That he, Yuu Yashiro.....No, that Yashiro Yuu is the Preceding Hero.」

While the corners of his mouth warped to make a broad grin, the man talked.

「.....You're wrong. Yashiro-san isn't something like the Hero.....He isn't something like the enemy of God!!」

She didn't have something like irrefutable evidence. Moreover, there was probably no mistake that this man was the Sorcerer Zephyr that once traveled with the Hero and betrayed him.

But Bernadette didn't want to believe any of it. It was because she could possibly think that that boy could be a villain that looked down upon God.

They were words that were shouted out partially out of desperation, but those words were confirmed to be the truth by the man in front of her.

「Of course he isn't. Him, the enemy of God? That makes me laugh. If he's the enemy of God, then wouldn't that make all of the people in this world grave sinners? That guy who was summoned from another world without even knowing the reason, continued to fight while vomiting blood, got betrayed many times over, was engulfed by the karma of people, and yet stood and carried the world on his shoulders for the sake of the woman he fell in love with, why must he be treated this way!!? I must not be compassionate.^[3] That guy, who couldn't be married to Her Majesty, who couldn't keep Her Majesty alive, and who couldn't live in the land of Her late Majesty, but yet smiled and left this land, why is he grave sinner!!? Kuku, you must not be compassionate. Don't you think so? That guy needs to overcome the sadness. And the thing that needs to be killed before going to meet such a painful thing, needs to be

compassion!!」

Bernadette lost her anger for the man in front of her, whose vulgar laugh resounded, and only feared him.

Zephyr shouted that he thought that Yuu might be in grief and wanted to kill him. However, the fact that both were his true feelings was, whether she liked it or not, transmitted to her.

Contradiction.

Wasn't Zephyr himself the personification of that? Bernadette cursed that in the innermost depths of her heart.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Original: 天魔覆滅

[2] Written as 聖女 (saint or holy woman), read as アマテル

[3] I'm pulling my hair out trying to figure out how to translate this line. I still don't know if I translated this right. Original: 不憫でならない

Chapter 88 - Within the Flames

*

「Let's first forget about Yuu. After all, he'll be coming here. More importantly, what takes priority right now is.....the extermination of the rat that slipped in from somewhere, don't you think so?」

Suddenly, flames materialized in Zephyr's left hand and Zephyr tossed those flames behind him as if he were just brushing it off.

Don!! (Bam!!)

When it made a thunderous roar that sounded like a truck had made a collision, a burst of flames spread out inside of the warehouse.

Although it wasn't as bad as the time he attacked Bernadette, Zephyr had aria-lessly fired an explosion that was enough to kill a person.

「Wha, what the hell are ya doin', bastard! Our goods that we went through so much trouble to get is!!」

「Did you really think I would make such an elementary mistake? Shut up and watch.」

The surrounding men were flustered by the sudden use of magic. The great number of piled up wooden boxes all had sizes where several people could fit in them. In fact, children that had their mouths and both hands and feet tied and unable to move were packed into those large boxes.

The burst of flames that they thought had burned those wooden boxes disseminated its heat and immediately went out.

「Kukaka, so you were able to avoid that just now. An acrobat that can cut off their presence, in short, you're a type of Assassin, aren't you?」

What came in response to that question, was something that came in flying.

Toto ttsutototo!! (Sound of multiple objects hitting one after another)

「Hou, so they're daggers?」

Six bladed tools that were fired in one go. If it were Yuu, he would have probably concluded that those were kunai in an instant.

When Zephyr defended against the kunai that were flying in with his staff, the kunai wedged into the staff together with the sound.

「.....ツ!」

And then, using the moment that he was preoccupied with the kunai, Kuon made an assault from just above Zephyr.

Kuon, who held a straight temper lined sword in an underhand grip, dropped down while holding a talisman in his hand, aimed at the back of Zephyr's neck, and swung his short sword.

But,

「.....Kaha!?!」

Zephyr bent his body, avoided that sword stroke, accurately aimed at his solar plexus, and kicked him away.

「Kukaka! Did I say that I was bad at close quarters combat? Don't go misreading me just because I'm a Magician!」

Even while crouching down from the shock and pain of being kicked in the solar plexus and sent flying, Kuon didn't avert his eyes from Zephyr. The Zephyr in question that was being glared at by those sharp eyes harbored an interest in Kuon, who had maintained consciousness despite being powerfully kicked in the solar plexus which was one of the body's weak points and yet glared at him.

「I see, I see.....so, it's that Vodan's son.」

Slowly getting closer, Zephyr pulled down Kuon's mouth mask and made an amazed sounding sigh.

「Guh.....」

「What? Oi oi, it really is that Heleott brat!」

The ones that responded to Zephyr's words were the kidnappers that were in the perimeter.

「Ahh, there's no mistaking it! This cheeky-looking eyes are that of Vodan's son, Kuon Heleott!」

「To think that he would come on his own to become a hostage!」

Apart from the surrounding laughing in delight men, Zephyr looked down on Kuon as if his interest had cooled down.

「You're the typical kind of guy that overestimates his own ability and then fails. And here I thought I might enjoy this. Boil him or burn him, do what you want. My interest in him has vanished.」

Having concluded that he overestimated Kuon who had gotten in here all alone, Zephyr informed the surrounding men and then sat down in a nearby chair while taking out the kunai that were stuck onto his staff.

「No need to tell us twice! Oi, tie him up.」
「Right!」

The men tied rope around Kuon's hands and feet, as he was enduring the pain with all his might and couldn't even put up any decent resistance.

「.....I absolutely won't forgive any of you bastards. After I make all of you eat the damn disgusting food of the isolation cells, I'll sink you all into the Io Bay!!」

Even as Kuon, who was tied up and became unable to move about, shouted while being held face down to the ground, the men were all chuckling.

「Heh! The one that's gonna be like that from now on is you, Heleott brat!」

「After the destruction of the Heleott Group, you're gonna be a slave!」

「There are guys that would want a brat like you after all. Well, for those kinds of guys, they're all owners of nasty inclinations though.」

The men laughed. Eventually, a kunai silently pierced into one of the men's arm.

「Gyaaaaahh!?!」

In the middle of the man's resounding shout, Kuon's right hand that threw the kunai was stepped on by the man that was the leading figure.

「You shitty brat! Oi, hold him down!」
「っ.....And here I thought I could get another one in.」

Kuon was boldly smiling while being held down by several men, but
「Oi, you go both ways, right? Rape this guy.」
his facial expression stiffened from the words the leading man had thrown out.

「Eh? Eh, is that alright?」

Among the men that was holding Kuon down, one with a big body build let out a voice that sounded somewhat happy.

「Yeah. There are some guys that also want to break in rebellious guys, but I want to shut him up right now.」

From the words that the leading man said as if he were spitting them out, the big body build man stretched his hand out to Kuon's clothes.

「D, don't touch me!! Don't you dare touch me~!! Sto, ...Stoppppppppp!!」

Even though he desperately tried to resist, with both his hands and feet held down, he was unable to move as he liked.

Before long, the man grabbed the clothes and then, biribiri, the sound of cloth tearing and Kuon's scream resounded within the warehouse.

「Hehe, you've got beautiful skin. It'd be a waste not to rape.....Hn? This guy.....」

The man that tore the clothes showed a smile and at the time he noticed something and reached his hand out toward the now half-naked Kuon, that echoed.

DOoON.....DOoON

All of the kidnappers were surprised by the sound that suddenly resounded.

That was the sound of the warehouse's sliding-type door being knocked

on as if it were being struck.

「O, oi.....Why was this place.....」

「Wasn't this place hidden using magic?」

All of the flustered men turned their eyes towards Zephyr.
In response, Zephyr raised the corners of his mouth.

「Silent and Presence Concealment Barriers were certainly put up in the surrounding area.....Going beyond that, that guy probably sniffed us out.」

Slowly standing up, Zephyr peeked over at Bernadette.

「Did you lose any underwear over these past few days?」

「.....Eh?」

When Bernadette spaced out from not understanding the meaning of the words that were suddenly turned towards her, the sound of the door being knocked on was once again made.

「Literally, he sniffed us out. Most likely, with your underwear.」

Zephyr, who cheerfully laughed with a Kukuku, walked up until he was in front of the door.

DOoON...DOoON.

The warehouse door was made of a firm, thick steel sheet that guarded against huge waves.

As a counter-measure for rust, it was smeared with a broth of a medicinal plant called Hakuna Grass and it boasted a thickness greater than that of a person's arm.

「'ello~, this is the Mikawa store~.」

They heard a voice that didn't have any energy in it from the other side of the thick, steel sheet door. There was no mistaking it, it was Yashiro Yuu's voice.

「Explosion」

That thick, steel door was, blown off in an instant.

The heat burned Bernadette's cheek.

The steel that melted due to the high temperature and turned into a liquid dripped onto the ground.

Looking at it, the steel door was mercilessly destroyed, and outside of the warehouse, it had already transformed into a hell of purgatory.

「Yashiro.....san?」

The brightly burning flames thunderously roared and thoroughly burned every living thing.

Naturally, the person whose name she muttered, was not there.

Maybe because he was burned up by the flames, or maybe because he was scattered by the aftermath of the blast, there wasn't even a trace of Yuu's figure and there was only the flames thunderously burning.

「.....No...way.....no way.....It can't be.....!」

Tears rising to her eyes, they ceaselessly overflowed.

「Yashiro-san! Yashiro-saaaaaan!!」

Bernadette's scream vanished within the thunderously burning flames.

As if acting on concert to that voice, within the burning flames, a dazzling light peeked through.

「『Soul Desire』」

That was the appearance of peoples' desires taking form.
Cutting down despair, becoming a sword that severs the darkness.

「Zeeephyyyyyyyyyyrrrr!!」

Together with a howl that shook the atmosphere, that appeared from within the flames.

「That was some greeting, wasn't it.....You went and made me die once!!」

Appearing with an aurora sword in one hand, and girl's underwear and a fundoshi in the other hand, there was a single man clad in light.

「I'm sinking you in the Io Bay!!」

Yashiro Yuu. The Preceding, Hero.

Chapter 89 - Empty-handed Clash

*

「Yo, Yuu. It sure has been a while.」

「.....Zephyr. To think that a guy like you would lend a hand to something like kidnapping. You've really fallen.」

Yuu said that to the smirking Zephyr with a cooled down voice as if he had completely misjudged him.

「I can earn money by pretending to be a babysitter. It's great that I don't have to do much labor and be at ease.」

「I'm asking if you don't have any pride, you shitty bastard.」

「Kukaka, to be desiring pride from me, you're barking up the wrong tree, you know?」

「Come to think of it, that's true. After all, you're the detestable kind of guy that would even betray his comrades if it was for the sake of your selfish desires.」

「You're not much different, aren't you? With only whether our time as seen from the outside is treated as a moving tale or not, the rest is the same. In regards to that, there's no change in the interior.」

「You and I are the same? That'll make me throw up.」

「Kukuku.....Kuka, kukakah!! Yuuuuuuu!!」

「Zeeephyyyyyyyr!!」

After a one beat howl, Yuu, who stepped up right in front of Zephyr in one breathe, and Zephyr, who cast Body Strengthening magic on himself, vigorously butted foreheads.

With the impact of their foreheads clashing, their foreheads were cut, and they both shed blood.

But the two of them didn't show signs of taking even one step back. On

the contrary, they looked like they were trying to take a step forward.

「You've gotten much bigger, haven't you!! Well, I feel like the princess was still taller though.....」

「Shut up!! Don't go poking at things that people get bothered about!! Don't make a face that says "I went and said something a bit mean~"!!」

They clashed even more. Zephyr's right fist deeply bore into Yuu's stomach, and Yuu's knee kick went into the gaps of Zephyr's ribs. Zephyr's hood was removed from the after-effects of their clash, and his face could be seen.

「Same to you. You've got a pretty cool looking face now, don't you, Zephyr!! Who did that to you!？」

White hair and deep crimson eyes. And then, what stood out more than that were the two large gashes on top of his face that intersected each other.

The cut that went from the left eye to the right jaw was done by Yuu, but the other wound was probably done by someone other than Yuu.

「Kukaka! It was all thanks to your disciple! To think that he'd become able to put an injury on me, I didn't expect that at all!!」

「Disciple? Oi oi, could it be you're talking about Prokion? Hahah! That's great! No wonder you were paid back with a serious wound!! You better not have killed him!!」

「You know me, don't you? That I'm the type to save what I'm looking forward to for last!!」

With that, the two of them separated foreheads, and then attacked once again.

GON!!!

「Zephyr!! You, you're the only one I'm going to beat the hell out of!!」
「Be at ease, Yuu! By killing you, I'll also get killed too!!」

Yuu opened up his left hand by biting down on the underwear and with that left hand, Zephyr wore hardening magic on his right hand that originally could only

be used on inorganic substances and with that right hand,

They both struck at each other's face.

「Buh!？」

「Gaah!？」

Although they both made sounds that sounded like their bones were breaking, without stopping their momentum, the two of them unfolded a striking exchange at super close point-blank range.

Incidentally, due to the attack just now, the underwear that Yuu held in his mouth was thrown to the ground.

「Urarararararararararararararararararah!!」

The kicks, the fists, the butting heads,

「Kukakakakakakakakakakakakakakakakakah!!」

all done with a speed that couldn't be confirmed with sight, they clashed.

「Uraaaah!!」

「Kukaaah!!」

With the swung fists and kicks colliding, shockwaves struck without discrimination in the surroundings.



「Wh, wha, just what in the world is going on~!？」

From the after-effects of Yuu and Zephyr's clashes, the still hanging in midair Bernadette was swaying as if she were being hurled by the wind.

(This is Yashiro-san's, true.....ㄟ, what is with this absurd power!)

While swaying from the after-effects, Bernadette trembled in fear from the two's clash.

「Though, even with that, he's still holding back. Because of his design, he can't kill humans.」

「Eh?」

Suddenly being talked to, when she turned her awareness to where the

voice came from, there was Jean Jacques Eustace, and Kuon who was wearing Jean's mantle and covering his body.

「Jean-san! Also, Kuon-san! Were you, injured in anyway?」

Bernadette, who could do nothing but watch Kuon as he received the assault from the men, apologetically said that, but

「Ah, ...Y, yeah. Y, you don't have to.....worry.」

Seeing Kuon, whose face looked red and embarrassed but was hanging his head and looking bitter, Bernadette got an inkling of a small sense of discomfort that was produced within her.

(.....Isn't, isn't he kind of cute? No, not the kind of cute from being younger, the moe character kind.)

That atmosphere of him watching Yuu fight while he was somewhat fidgety, wasn't that just like the atmosphere of a younger heroine that would attentively watch her childhood friend from the shadow of the school building as he continued his absurd special training right before a summer tournament?

His feebly collapsed fox ears accelerated that feeling.

「Damn it! Like hell I'll let you all get away!」

It wasn't just Bernadette that became dumbfounded by Yuu and Zephyr's sudden clash. When the kidnappers' thought processes restarted, the men that sharp sightedly discovered Bernadette's group semi-desperately ran while screaming.

「Kuh.....!」

Kuon probably couldn't fight due to the fear from being assaulted by someone of the same sex. Also, Jean didn't have any equipment that looked like it could become a weapon. Bernadette resolved herself thinking that she herself needed to fight, but

「Hold it right there. With your Maryoku sucked up dry, you're just a simple girl. The most that would happen is the tables being turned on you.」

While untying the ropes that bound Bernadette, Jean said that so as to admonish her.

「B, but.....Kuh!」

Having the ropes undone, Bernadette stood directly on the ground, but unable to put strength in her legs, she stumbled forward. Seeing that, Jean made a wry smile.

「Now, now, be at ease. Although they aren't like the current Yuu and Zephyr, I've prepared some powerful helpers.」

Getting the better of Bernadette who was about to shout “How could you be so carefree!”, Jean took out a lute from nowhere.

「What we should do now is save the people that were kidnapped, after all.」

Bororon.

A light sound peculiar to stringed instruments reverberated, and, interweaving those sounds, a song was spun. As she listened to that tune, Bernadette felt the impatience and confusion she had fade away.

「Hou, ...that certainly is a good tone quality.」

「As expected of an ally sung as a 『Lord of Musical Performances』. While being pleasant to the ear, it stimulates the heart and has a heat to it..... Fufu, it is the greatest tune.」

「Umu, my heart is boiling.」

As if they were acting in concert with that sound, the shadows of three people jumped out as if to obstruct Jean's group's way. Falhart Enhans, Mary Fe Crestolia, and Priest Ulgan.

「Hahah, that is an honor! While Yuu is holding Zephyr back, let us go and rescue the people that were captured!」

The three replied with an “Ou”, and kicked the kidnappers about.

Chapter 90 - The Hero's Figure

*

「Kukaka. You've really become able to look after your surroundings, haven't you, Yuu.」

Eyes that were red like blood were staring towards me. Raising the corners of his mouth and smiling with a smirk, Zephyr had an intensity that would make you feel a shudder like something just crawled up your back.

If he normally kept silent, he would've been a pretty good looking pretty boy, but if a girl were to see his laughing appearance like this, I bet even a century long love would cool down. Rather, they should feel a sense of danger for their body.

This is what you'd probably call a disappointing pretty boy.

「Ah? Hey, what do you mean by that?」

Stopping right at the moment I was about to hit him, I instead strengthened the power I was putting into my forehead.

「Do I need to say it for you to understand?」

「Keh, even if I get praised by you, it doesn't make me the least bit happy.」

As for why I didn't use the Sacred Sword and unfolded this striking exchange at point-blank distance, it was because if I were to use the Sacred Sword, Zephyr would probably also let his magic loose.

In a narrow place like this, moreover, there existed a huge number of large wooden boxes around us that probably had the kidnapped people locked within them.

If he were to use wide scope magic in a place like this, the kidnapped people would get dragged in and eaten up.

However, in exchange for sealing my attack, his magic was also sealed. Right now, this was a spectacular move.

With how I knew what this guy wanted to say just like how this guy knew what I wanted to do, you can probably understand how deep my connection with Zephyr was.

Regrettably, the length of time that I was acquainted with him match the length of time I had with Sylvia and the others.

He was a companion as well as an adversary.

We had a thorough understanding of each other.

「.....I, won't forgive you.....I'll have you appear before the authorities and make you pay for your crimes, Zephyr.」

To begin with, I had no intention of killing this guy using the Sacred Sword.

As Baba-chan would probably say, 「A Hero is the idea of the people. It's not like they are born for the sake of wounding people.」

Though, I have also had times where these hands were laid on people.

But, even then, I didn't try to kill them intentionally, they were by chance and.....No, I should stop talking about that here.

In any case, by design, I can't kill people. That's why I can't do anything but beat him up right to the limit and then have him judged by the hands of the people.

「Oi oi, don't say something so cold, Yuu.」

Saying that, Zephyr smugly smiled.

「Let's kill each other.」

At the same time he struck a fist at my stomach, without being afraid of wounding his own arm, he fired explosion magic at point-blank range.

「Oh cra,.....!!」

Even more than the pain I felt of my body being twisted, I panicked over the fact that distance was placed between us.

A distance where I couldn't stop his magic's invocation in an instant. That meant that the ban on his magic was lifted.

It meant that his magic would be indiscriminately released.

At that moment, the vicinity was enveloped in a burst of flames.



Zephyr was self-aware that the corners of his mouth were raised. He was also self-aware that that was something he could never hold down.

The explosion magic that he should have released. That which should have changed the entire area into a hell with its impact and overflowing flames, was cut by an aurora sword, and vanished as if it was never there from the light.

「Kukakah.....『Al to Flügge』[\[1\]](#).....!!」

Armor of white and an aurora sword.

With an appearance as told by the tales, the Hero was standing there.

『Al to Flügge』

Being half of Yuu's height, this was the appearance of the Sacred Sword's so called first stage limiter being removed.

It was an appearance where, by having the limiter removed, the Maryoku that overflowed like a waterfall was changed into armor that protected him.

And then, with the Sacred Sword's divine protection working, it was an appearance that sublimated him into an existence that formed a pair with the 『Demon Lord』.

「Finally, so you feel like coming at me seriously, Yuu!」

With eyes like that of a child that was given a new toy, Zephyr looked at Yuu.

「.....」

In response to that, while stiffening his facial expression, Yuu took his stance with the Sacred Sword.

Taking that as his response, Zephyr nimbly waved the staff in his hand, and

「Here we go!!」

thrust that staff into the ground.

「『—————』!!」

It was an aria that was like a low roar. Yuu didn't need the time to notice that it was Drago Roar.

He also didn't need the question "Why can he use it?" He instinctively knew.

『Snatch』. An ability that would, just as the name said, snatch away other people's as well as the surrounding's Maryoku and make it his own.

Sucking up the Sacred Sword's Maryoku that was overflowing like a waterfall, he used it just like that for the aria of the Drago Roar magic. Simply chanting the Drago Roar, which had a premise of being used by a dragon, required an enormous amount of Markyoku.

However, Yuu didn't move.

Those eyes of his that gradually went from black to a glittering blue did not separate from Zephyr. Not overlooking a single thing, he stared at Zephyr with eyes that were like a raptor aiming for its prey.

「Yuuuu!!」

Finishing the aria, Zephyr was then clad in an aura that was like flames. It was probably a type of 『Dragon Clad』 magic that entrusted the power of a dragon in his body.

Being entrusted with the power of a dragon, Zephyr raised both arms overhead and closed in on Yuu.

Seeing that, Yuu still did not move.

「Wha.....!？」

The one that revealed a voice of surprise was Zephyr.

His own arms revolving in midair, and, Yuu who did not have any change at all the moment before.

Despite that, Zephyr saw the instant the Sacred Sword sever his own arms.

Did he manipulate time? Nay. Zephyr knew very well that that was

something that Yuu couldn't do. Then was it done with a speed that couldn't be caught with the naked eye? That was also a nay. He had seen the instant the Sacred Sword had severed his arms. Despite that, Yuu himself didn't make a single movement.

He didn't know.

Did he use something that Zephyr didn't know about?

Blue eyes looked down on Zephyr who had fallen down with his face on the ground.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Written as 古き翼 (Ancient Wings or Ancient Birds), read as アル・ト・フ リューゲ. Again, I don't know German.

Chapter 91 - The Preceding Hero and the Cardinal

*

「So it was, the 『Witch of Time's』.....Probability magic.....Fate Manipulation!」

While his body was soaked with fresh blood that was pouring out from both arms, Zephyr laughed with a cracked voice.

「My attack, had reached you.....and, if you received that attack and were unharmed, I could still understand that.....However, to make it as if it had never happened.....Ku, kaka.....So you're truly able to 『defeat even God』.....It's not uncommon, for you to be called the enemy of God.....」

Zephyr is probably the only human being that could possibly have these kinds of thoughts while having the extreme situation of having lost both arms. Rather, having crossed that line, it seems like one could even question if Zephyr could even be called a human being.

But,

「Almost but not quite.」

Zephyr's deduction was cut down.

「That situation, Zephyr, defending against your attack, it was impossible even if I were to manipulate fate. The events that happened would invariably converge. Fate is something that will always exist in the future.」

And then, in response to Yuu's words, Zephyr quickly looked up at Yuu.

「The past.....the cause of the event, ...So you distorted.....the cause and effect.....!？」

The principle of causality. Just how many people would live on

recognizing those words.

And then, if they strongly recognized them, they would get entangled by the chains of cause and effect.

「Well, that's exactly what I "cut".『Al』 isn't a weapon meant to cut any and all objects. Cutting up time, cutting up space, it's a weapon meant to kill the 『Demon Lord』.」

Destroying a cause that happened in the past, a power that could control even fate.

Doing something like that, it's already the same as God.

「.....You not knowing about it was inevitable, Zephyr. This power was only awakened because 『Al』 was provoked by the Demon Lord. Because of that, I can "never again" save Olivia.....」

Putting away the Sacred Sword, in the middle of the white armor turning into light and dispersing, Yuu's eyes were looking at someone that wasn't Zephyr.

「.....Kukaka. Save Her Highness, huh.」

Zephyr moved to be face up.

「Going backwards to the past.....Were you planning on borrowing the power of the 『Witch of Time』?」

Yuu shook his head at Zephyr's words.

「I gave up the moment I noticed the true nature of this 『power』. I..... can no longer return to the past.」

Unable to shake off the past.

Unable to look back in the past.

Yuu lived captured by the past.



「Zephyr was dealt with a three-ply seal and was transported to Luxeria. In the end, it seems he showed an eerie smile.」

「.....I see.」

The day after the fight with Zephyr was finished, starting with the warehouse that the kidnappers used, disassembly work of warehouses that had no plans of being used was started. Even though it was right after what happened yesterday, that's an amazing reaction speed. Well, for Vodan-shi, since it was the place where his own son was kidnapped, there's no way that action could be a mistake.

While listening to the sounds of the dismantling work, I looked at the sea as it became dusk.

「And the kidnappers?」

「Including the ones in Oltaine, it seems all of them have been arrested.」

「Oltaine? There were some even over there?」

Port Town Oltaine is where the head of the Centaurs, Eri-san, and the others went.

「Yes, though, it would seem that Oltaine was a decoy.....」

「A decoy?」

「Yes. The scale was large, and there seemed to be many slaves, but most of them were slaves meant for labor.....and it seems that the slaves that would sell for a high price were all gathered in Be Io.」

In the middle, Jean said those words ambiguously as if it was hard for him to say them. It seems that Jean, who was formerly an aristocrat and should have been estranged to such a thing, took me into consideration.

「Do you think they intended to abandon Oltaine from the start?」

「If I had to say, it was probably did so for both.」

Pulling a lute out from who knows where, Jean started to play humming a tune.

「.....With this development, doesn't it seem like a large organization was involved and backing them?」

「There's probably one involved.」

When I said that half-jokingly, Jean affirmed it as if it were really a matter of course.

「This is my own personal opinion but.....Recently, it seems that the Church is doing some secret maneuvers behind the scenes. If I were told that this was their deed, I would obediently accept it.」

「Oi oi, the Church.....Right now, isn't that kid, erm.....dammit, I forgot his name. Wasn't that Pope-chan doing his best at it?」

When I asked that, Jean bitterly smiled.

「Well. Cardinal Greneel was reinstated, and the Church became his once again.」

「Greneel.....So it was the bastard from that time.」

Cardinal Greneel. Three years ago, he was the Cardinal that used the still immature Pope as a puppet and manipulated the Church as he pleased.

He was the kind of guy that talked about a Human Supremacy Principle and unfairly oppressed Demi-humans.

「That's right. The man that blamed you. Although he lost his standing once, he tenaciously crawled back up.」

Although he said it as if it were nothing, Jean's mouth displayed a smile that looked like it was full of self-mockery.

「Did Sylvia do nothing about it?」

「She did. There's no way she'd do nothing about it.」

Jean stopped playing the lute and glared at me as if he were blaming me.

「But that guy, when he crawled up to the front stage, immediately, he questioned Her Majesty about the death of Amaterasu, and then, treating you who should have saved the world as an “enemy of God” that let Amaterasu die, he shamelessly questioned Her Majesty about your whereabouts.....」

There, Jean took in a deep breathe, and slowly let it out.

「The glorious seat of the Cardinal was also looked down upon by the Hero that looked down upon God. In order to at least oppose that man that raved such, I wrote the story of you and the princess.....or something like that.」

And so, with the conversation done, just like a minstrel, Jean sung a tale.

It was a love story where a boy that you could find anywhere had fought to the bitter end for a girl that he had fallen in love with at first sight.

Chapter 92 - The Preceding Hero and the Sick Person

*

A whole day after the resolution of the incident, I haven't exchanged words with Bernadette.

No, it's not like, I wanted to talk with her to the point of overdoing it, you know?

But, it's kind of like.....there's a bad aftertaste.

That was the reason, but I did hide the fact that I was the Hero, and deceived her after all.....But I'm not at fault.

Ah—, seriously, what should I do? This has really become something troublesome.....

As I was thinking such things, I arrived at the inn.
Uumu, what should I do. She'll probably also go after the matter about how I secretly carried her underwear, no mistaking it.
No, in regards to the underwear, if I tell Bernadette that it was to sniff them out.....That's no good. I collected them before the incident.

「What should I do.....Oh?」

When I opened the door to the private room of the inn I was staying at while thinking of an excuse, there was a woman sitting on the bed looking downward.

She had black hair that was relatively rare for this other world and a black habit.

It was Bernadette.

「Ah—.....Um.....」

I was at a loss for words.
It, it couldn't be helped. It turned into an extremely dark atmosphere after all.

I was thinking “Did I unintentionally get the wrong room?” but since I saw the scattered clothes that I took off and meant to wash on top of the bed, this was unmistakably the room that I was staying in.

Which would mean, this really is a talk about the 『Hero』. Uumu, this is an atmosphere that says that I can't just postpone it.....

Indifferent to me was about to blow a fuse from this situation, Bernadette slowly.....stood up.

「B, Bernadette-san?」

I put myself on guard thinking that she might thrust her gun point or something at me, but without any signs of her doing so, she came closer while slowly swaying her body.

「.....Bernadette?」

When I got closer thinking that she was acting really weird, *gurah* (collapse).....Bernadette dropped her posture and collapsed.

「Bernadette!? Your body is hot.....is it a cold? Oi, are you really alright!?!」

While surprised, when I extended my arms halfway out of reflex and held her, her body had become hot enough to make you unable to think that it was normal.

「H, huh? Yashiro.....san?」

So you didn't even notice that!?

「Dammit, I'll need to pay attention to carrying her. It's the futon that I slept in but deal with it.」

I tried to lie Bernadette, who had finally noticed me, on the bed, but Bernadette struggled as if to resist within my arms.

「っ, There's no, need for that.....More importantly, there's something, I want to ask.....」

「Shut up! If you keep on blabbing, I'll put my tongue in and kiss you!」
「っ.....!」

Certainly, it was a threat that I said to stop you from resisting, but I don't think that you needed to go so far as to bite down on your lower lip like that to be silent, idiot.

「.....Wait, this isn't the time to be screwing around. Just wait for a bit.」

When I laid her down on the bed and covered her with the futon, I went down all the way to the first floor and stole the newspaper of the innkeeper that was reading the newspaper.

「Wha, what the heck are ya doin'!」

「We'll talk later! Lend me a bucket-full of water and a towel. There's a sick person, make it quick.」

When I shouted looking like I would go on and on, the innkeeper kept on nodding and then started to run to call his wife.



「Rather than a cold, it looks like her physical condition just deteriorated. Well, since she had sweat quite a lot, I had her clothes changed.」

「Thank you for everything.」

An Oba-san with a good physique appeared from the room holding Bernadette's habit.

After that, the innkeeper's wife that offered to help in the nursing did things like wiping her down and changing her clothes. She was left with the things that I, a man, couldn't do.

「You don't need to worry about it. I heard from Vodan-danna that you guys that were staying here were the ones that solved the kidnapping problem. I was just wondering if there was anything that I could do for you!」

「Vodan-shi said that? That really helped.」

Frankly, I was thinking “was it alright to say it to ordinary people?”, but since we were helped that to it, I decided to let it go.

「By the way, who is the person called 「Yashiro-san」?」

「? That's probably me.....」

When I answered such, Oba-san made a broad smile.

「I see, I see. So that Yashiro-san was you. Come one, go be by the little lady's side.」

Somehow understanding what Oba-san wanted to say, I nodded with a complicated face.

「O~i, are you alright~?」

Gacha. When I entered the room while turning the doorknob, Bernadette had a wet towel on her forehead and was lying down in the bed with the futon covering her up until her shoulders.

「Y, yes. Somehow.」

When she noticed that I had come in, she covered her face with the futon as if to hide it.

However, only her mouth was hidden and her eyes could still be seen.

「That's great.」

「.....」

「.....」

「.....」

When I sat down in a nearby chair, Bernadette said nothing and stared at me.

.....Uumu, should I be the one to break the ice? Or should I just have her slowly go to sleep for today and talk to her again tomorrow?

「.....Yashiro-san.....are you, really, the Hero?」

Maybe because she was unable to just watch me worry over it, Bernadette went and broke the ice.

「.....Well. Technically, that's what I was called before.」

She didn't speak in a way that sounded like she was threatening me, but thinking that she was criticizing me, I corrected my posture and nodded.

「.....」

Closing her eyes and taking in a deep breath, what spilled out from Bernadette's eyes, were tears.

「Ah.....N, no, um, how should I say this.....S, sorry, for deceiving you! I didn't mean to deceive.....No, I did mean to deceive you. But, it was more because I didn't want to fight you.....」

I answered while lightly blowing my nose from the tears that suddenly streamed down.

If I say so myself, it was a splendid way of panicking.

「.....Sorry. Being together with you, it was fun. I didn't want, this relationship to crumble.」

Probably, these were my true feelings. Having made the stupid-seeming pretense of traveling with an assassin that was aiming for me, just to counterbalance that risk, it was just as fun to be with her. (In the worst case, even if she had hostility, since I had a body that wouldn't die, I thought that I could deal with it somehow.)

I couldn't match my eyes with Bernadette whose eyes were moist with tears and was looking at me.

「I had always, thought about it..... That if you, Yashiro-san, were the Hero..... Then why, did Saint-sama die. Why, did the Hero that should have loved Saint-sama, abandon Saint-sama?」

At that time, I felt a shock as if I had just had my head struck with a hammer.

「To me, the Hero was.....This is going to the extreme, but he was a terrible person that survived by abandoning the woman that he loved. Moreover, that woman was Saint-sama that was called the Apostle of God. Naturally, she was a noble existence that had all kinds of divine protection and blessings..... That's why, I always resented the Hero.」

.....I bet she did. In actuality, Olivia's popularity was amazing. A pure being that descended to the earth in place of God, that's the Saint image that the Ulquiorra believers came up with.

「But.....To me, Yashiro-san, you didn't seem like that kind of person.」

Slowly getting up, Bernadette looked at me.

「Please tell me.....Did you really, did you really let Saint-sama die without trying to help her!?!」

While halfway sobbing, Bernadette shouted.

This was probably the core of what Bernadette wanted to hear.

「.....Saint.....Saint, huh. You know, what the Saint's name was, right?」

「Olivia Fin Lutecia Leezelion.....wasn't it?」

Kokun, Bernadette nodded, and answered.

「That's right, ...It was Olivia. What you want to know is, the reason why Olivia died, that's fine, right?」

From Bernadette's silent nod, I unintentionally let out a sigh.
To be honest, I don't want to talk about this. It's because I would remember the sense of helplessness that I experienced three years ago.

「At any rate, abandoned her.....huh. That really hurts. Rather, you could say that I was obstructed. However, only the fact that Olivia died because of me, is the truth.」

Chapter 93 - The Preceding Hero's Love Story

*

Now then.....I wonder where I should start from.
Should I try singing about my meeting with her to our secret date in the middle of our journey and then all the way up to our parting like a poet from somewhere?

No, that was a joke, so don't make such somewhat glad eyes.
Jeez, I wonder why the creatures called women like love stories like this.

.....Olivia Fin Lutecia Leezelion. Since it's stupidly long, it's disrespectful but I'm going to abbreviate it to Olivia, got it?

First of all, it's said that she died, but to be accurate, Olivia hasn't died yet.

Although her body has rotted, her soul remains in this world.

Why do I know that you ask? It's because, even now, Olivia is containing the Demon Lord.

The soul is something that can't be seen but it certainly does exist.
I myself am living proof. The Sacred Sword that exists in this world is originally nothing but a simple vessel.

I, the Hero, had the natural abilities for it, and by pouring my soul, which should be called a fragment of the Sacred Sword, into the vessel, the Sacred Sword formed the shape of the original Sacred Sword for the first time.

Well, the story about the Sacred Sword is stupidly long like usual so let's put it aside for next time. If I had to mention volume number, wouldn't it be fine to say it'll be about volume six?

.....Now then, first is why we took the stupidly bothersome way of sealing the Demon Lord without defeating him.

It's an extremely simple argument. It's because he can't be defeated. Of course, he's the Demon Lord, you know?

And that's how it should be. Human emotions, so greatly diverse and greatly varied, as long as every single possible human emotion is there, we won't die.

Yeah. It's "we".

Though, to be accurate, it's the Demon Lord and the Sacred Sword.

That's right, there's no way the Demon Lord and the Sacred Sword will be destroyed as long as people's emotions swirl.

And then, the thing called human emotions is something that will never disappear.

You could say that's absolute. I'll declare it. As long as people are here, our fight will never end.

Positive emotions, negative emotions.....I think that it'll seem like negative emotions are bad by saying it like that, but I'll dare to use it just as it is.

The Sacred Sword which is the aggregation of positive emotions. The Demon Lord which is the aggregation of negative emotions.

Which one surpasses the other and which one doesn't, that much is clear.

They're both the same.

Humans are creatures that display their emotions like fools. In both joy and anger, they'll equally move about.

Humans are simple creatures that are like fools.

While sinking in the depths of despair, thinking in that there might be someone that will save them, they die with an imaginary hope in their hearts.

While at the peak of happiness, thinking that someone might break that happiness, they make an imaginary enemy, and it turns into skepticism.

On the other side of positive emotions, there are negative emotions, and

on the other side of negative emotions, there are positive emotions. They coexist.

There's no way to erase either one of them. It's because they are two sides of the same thing.

.....No matter how many times we try to defeat him, it's because the Sacred Sword exists that the Demon Lord can't be defeated. Even though it's because the Demon Lord exists that I wield the Sacred Sword.

.....Whoa there, you've got caught up in this in a good way, haven't you?

Rather, if you're having a bad physical condition, properly lie down. Here, I'll change the towel for you.

Ahem. Well.....In other words, if I'm going to keep it brief and say only the effect, 『As long as the Sacred Sword and the Demon Lord exist with each other, they won't disappear』.

Alright, now here's a question.

- Is there really no way to defeat the Demon Lord?

.....Looks like you understand.

That's right, defeating the Demon Lord.....There is a way to temporarily erase him from this world.

Only one, by simultaneously destroying the Sacred Sword and the Demon Lord which were two sides of the same existence, it is possible to destroy the Demon Lord.

Why do I know about such a thing, you ask?

I "know" about it.

There's no rhyme or reason. I just know about it.

.....You understand what happened next already, don't you?

Olivia, she became my substitute.

If it weren't for my conceit, I think Olivia would have said that she loved me.

Because of that, she probably held feelings of guilt towards me right to the very end.

Ah, come to think of it, did you know that I came from a different world?

Yup. That's right, Earth.

I was summoned from there by Olivia.

At any rate, even though it was fate that it was absolutely necessary to put an end to the Demon Lord, Olivia had regretted summoning me. She said that she had wrecked my life.

You know, Olivia.....at the last moment, she apologized.

Free from the obstacles that were my and Sylvia and the others' feelings of wanting Olivia to live.....She, called out to me.

She apologized for wanting me to live.

.....That was wrong. I wanted different words.

Dreaming of a different conclusion, wanting Olivia to live on, wanting her to smile.....Even though, I fought for that.....っ!!

.....Now~ then, I guess that's about it?

Concerning the result, Olivia died because of me. But it's not like I abandoned her. Absolutely not.

Did it sound like an excuse? Well.....it actually might be.....



「There's no way.....it would sound like one!」

Bernadette got up and hugged Yuu who was beside her and sitting on the bed.

It's because for Yuu, his face that looked like he would cry at any moment was something that he didn't want.

「Yashiro-san, I completely understand that you thought of Saint-sama with great care. Yashiro-san, I properly understand that you aren't at fault! Hearing that just now, it seems like you still haven't abandoned her.

I don't hate you, Yashiro-san!」

Gently, gently brushing Yuu's head, whom she was holding tightly, close to his ear as if to whisper.....As if to assert that she was by his side, Bernadette continued.

「.....You really loved Saint-sama, didn't you? You wanted to be told thank you by Saint-sama, didn't you? To be told "sorry", you didn't want to be apologized to, right? You wanted, to be together, didn't you?」

In her breast, she felt something hot spreading out. Strongly hugging Yuu's shoulders who was starting to tremble, while desperately trying to make her voice that was similarly starting to tremble be a gentle tone of voice, the corners of Bernadette's eyes became hot.

「I absolutely won't doubt you anymore. To think they said that you left Saint-sama to die, I won't doubt you. I mean, you loved Saint-sama this much after all. It must have been painful.....It must have been mortifying. You're really remarkable. You really did your best. It's alright now.」

While holding Yuu who was sobbing like a child tight, Bernadette felt a pain in her chest that made her want to shout. But, to relieve Yuu, to make Yuu relieved, "it's alright", she gently whispered "it's alright".

While wetting her cheeks.....from that love that didn't come true.

Chapter 94 - The Preceding Hero and the Large Sailing Ship

*

「U, uooooohh!! It's huge~!!」

Right now, what was in front of me was a large transport ship floating in the ocean and it was swaying.

On the ship that had three masts lined up and had a design of the Heleott family crest plaited into the sail in a huge way, they were currently bringing in luggage to be transported.

「If it's for you Sensei, we could have prepared a whole ship just for you.....Is this really alright?」

Making his tough face look uneasy, Vodan-shi said that sounding apologetic.

“As thanks for resolving the incident, here's a whole ship as a present!” is what Vodan-shi said, but I politely declined it.

「Ahaha....., It's fine as long as I can go to Galarie.....」

Even if I were to accept it, I at least know that the ship can't move with only one or two people. It'll become a useless object if it can't move after all.

That's why I got them to let me board a transport ship that was going to make a stop at Galarie.

It's three days after the incident was resolved. It's two days after the day that I embarrassingly cried in front of Bernadette.

Taking Bernadette, who made a full recovery after one day of rest, to pay a visit to Vodan-shi's residence, we received an extravagantly warm reception that they called a modest expression of gratitude.

Leaving Bernadette, who had gone Food Buster for the first time in a while, alone, I got Vodan-shi to arrange plans for a ship.

「Ohh, it would seem that we made it in time.」

「Oh?」

When I turned my head to the voice that I knew, there was a middle-aged man with an appearance that had presence and a woman that walked nestled close next to him.

It was Falhart Enhans and Princess Mary Fi Crestolia.

「Yah, Yashiro-kun. Pardon us, our departure preparations took a bit of time.」

Beside Falhart who was expressing a gentle smile, Mary displayed a sullen look.

「Naturally, it will take time for a lady's preparations!」

Well, that is true. For things like personal appearance, etc., girls take up a lot of time after all.

“In that case, wouldn't it be fine if you start acting at a much earlier time” is something that should not be said.

That's a promise with Onii-san.

「I see, so you two are departing Be Io. Have you decided your destination?」

「Fufufu. Yes, it's a town of the southern countries, 『Lentenago』 of the southern Gehl Archipelago!」

Mary said that with a tension that sounded like she would laugh with an Oh~ ho ho ho! at any moment.

「Oh~ ho ho ho! Sir Falhart and I.....Ahem. It will be a vacation of love with my h, husband!」

Ah, she really said it. Rather, if you're going to get embarrassed about it, you don't have to call him your husband.

Come to think of it, they did say something about a premarital trip. Come to think of it, what was the age difference between these two? I wanted to speak ill of them with things like “you riajuus should explode” or “you damned lolicon” but since I felt that I totally didn't have the right

to say them, I can't retort with them.....!

「Yeah yeah, may you have happin-.....ㄉ!?!」

As I was giving a halfhearted reply to the bashful Mary-san and Falhart-san, a shadow suddenly obstructed the sun.

Looking up at the sky with a snap, in my field of vision, I saw a muscular giant, Ulgan dropping down with his arms folded.

「Hmph!! Group Boss-dono, all of the moving of the cargo has finished.」

Making a thunderous *Don* sound as he landed on the ground, Ulgan lightly bowed his head to Vodan-shi with his arms still folded.

What the heck is the church's priest doing by moving cargo around? It really does suit him though!

「Ohh, thanks for that, Priest-dono. That really helped.」

Vodan-shi did a hearty laugh with a Gahaha. With these two lined up together, there's an "end-of-a-century"-like feeling to it.

「Yuu Yashiro. I had come to see you off but it seemed that I came a bit too early. And so I did some loading of cargo in place of exercise since I had some spare time.」

「Thanks for the explanation. Wait, you didn't need to explain every little thing.....」

「I did since you were making a face that went 「Why is a Priest loading cargo?」.」

I'm often told that by acquaintances like Sylvia, but does it really appear on my face that much?

「.....」

「.....」

Casually, the conversation paused, and we were at a loss of words for each other.

In the next moment,

Gah!!

「.....Magnificent!」

「Same to you. I got chills.」

An arm that grazed past my face, and my fist that I pushed out right before Ulgan's eyes.

To Ulgan who swung his stout arm, I turned away that fist of Ulgan with one hand and stepped in.

Having a moment of entanglement while confirming each other's physical strength, Ulgan and I lightly tapped fists and did a handshake.

「Let us meet again someday.」

「Ou.」

Not needing many words, Ulgan folded his arms again and left.

「How envious. Yashiro-kun, how about having a battle with me as well?」

「If Sir Falhar.....Ahem. If my husband is going to cross swords with you, I wish to request a battle with me as well.」

「Give me a break.」

Why do I have to fight right before my departure?
No, well, I did fight with Ulgan though.

「You're awfully popular, aren't you, Yuu Yashiro.」

「Kuushe! Is your body doing alright already?」

「All thanks to Bernadette.」

The one that appeared making clopping sounds was the demi-human that had a lower half of a horse, the Centuar tribe, Kuushe the Centaur.

Actually, Kuushe was hit with Stun magic like other people that were kidnapped. Until yesterday, she was able to move her head but her body had a paralysis condition and was unable to move.

「Fufun! It's all thanks to one of the 48 Certain Heal Techniques,

『Paralysis Heal』[\[1\]](#), that is passed down in the church!』

Maybe because they were talking with each other earlier, Bernadette, who was beside Kuushe, talked with boastful energy.

「Wouldn't it be fine with the normal healing magic, Cure?』

「That one is way too broad. There are several patterns of paralysis toxins and Cure works in practical use but the effect is weak, but for the Certain Heal Techniques, because the uses are separated from each other, there is a large variety and is hard to learn, but the effect is high in proportion to that.』

Fumu, I see.

「.....Yuu Yashiro, I have been entrusted with a message from Patriarch Liishe. Would you listen to it?』

When Bernadette finished her explanation, Kuushe corrected her bearing.

「Of course.』

Since it seemed like a serious speech, I obediently nodded without screwing around.

「『We, the people of 『Keiron』, give you our deepest gratitude and respect. We, the people of 『Keiron』, will draw our bows at your enemies if it is for your sake, and will become horses if it is for your sake. May you have the best of luck on your heroic travels.』.....That's it.』

I'm surprised. No, as for what, even though it was lip service, she said they would become horses..... Maybe because of a persistence during their times with humans from the olden days, Centaurs tremendously hated being treated as 『horses』.

Despite that, they came and said “it's alright if the entire tribe becomes horses!”

「.....Three years ago, how you saved many different tribes and our brethren, the 『Ixio』 people, is famous. The second descent of the Hero, and how you once again saved our brethren, I'm sorry that it seems

like I turned my back towards you but.....I am deeply, deeply grateful.
Thank you!」

Kuushe sat down in front of me, and greatly lowered her head.
Three years ago.....In other words, when I was acting as the Hero, there were times where I saved many demi-humans that received persecution from the church.

「You don't have to do that. I was just doing what I wanted after all.」

When I took a peek beside her, Bernadette lightly put her hands together, and apologized gesturing 「I told her」.
I didn't really mind, but I don't really want rumors to spread.
I'll warn her afterwards.

Translator's Notes:

[\[1\]](#) Original: マヒナオール. Might be a Doraemon game reference. Looking it up, I got to a wiki page for “Doraemon: Giga Zombie no Gyakushuu”

Chapter 95 - In the Gap of the Sea and the Sky

*

While climbing the gangway that was placed on the ship, I unconsciously thought about Jean and Kuon that didn't appear in the end.

No, more accurately, putting aside Jean who was a person that was splendidly free and willful, or rather, lived by going with the flow, I was worried about Kuon.

Although I was adored by him with all the "Aniki, Aniki" stuff, maybe because of the time when we locked Kuon up when Vodan-shi said that he would keep his hands off of the case, after the incident was resolved, Kuon secluded himself in his room as if to avoid me.

In Kuon's heart, I'm sure that he wanted me to persuade Vodan-shi right then and there.

A collusion with the parent that should have been mistaken, and the wickedness of having himself locked up.....I guess he was thinking about such things.

Of course, this was all speculation. But, I'm certain of my thought that he doesn't want to meet with me.

「Is something the matter?」

Ascending the gangway from behind me, Bernadette spoke to me sounding concerned.

「No, it's nothing.」

「Is it about Kuon-kun and Jean-san?」

Eh? What are you, an esper or something?

「Fufufu. It's because it's showing on your face.」

Saying that proudly, Bernadette expressed a smile that was like flowers were blooming.....Doesn't it feel like the direction of her character changed?

It felt like you were the kind of girl that would usually say an unnecessary line.....

「Come on, come on, you're blocking things up behind us~」

Since I stopped at the top of the gangway, Bernadette pushed my back while smiling.

.....Are? (Huh?) Was this girl always a girl that had moe going through her? She's somehow really cute?

.....Arere~? (Huuh~?)

「Gukeh~」

When Bernadette and I got on the ship, Silber who was further behind us also got on board the ship.

He was seriously displeased.

Beshi

「Ouch. You little, kicking a person's shin, how the heck were you raised.」

When I thought he would let me right just the other day, I was kicked by the Kulkel.



The ship's anchor was pulled up.
When the anchor was completely lifted, the ship gently swayed.
The floating sensation that was transmitted through these legs, while similar to how it was in an airship, it was certainly different.

「Farewell, Be Io.....I guess.」

「Compared to our time in Lizwadia, it was a short stay.」

「Well, that's because I was pretending to be a teacher in Lizwadia.....
Nn?」

On top of the ship that was gradually separating from the harbor, when I was having a light talk while waving at the people that came to see us off, I discovered the shadow of a person that was running this way with a tremendously fast speed from behind Vodan-shi and the others.

「What's that? A woman? No, that.....Is that Kuon!? What is he planning on doing wearing female clothing?」

「Eh, Kuon-san? Female clothing!? W, where!?!」

「He's running this way from behind those people!」

When I looked hard, the mini-skirt kimono and white kneesock seasonal female clothing wearing Kuon ran through the side of Vodan-shi and the others and, just like that, dived into the ocean.....Or so we thought, but instead he did a big jump like a grasshopper.

The target, is this ship!

Karan (Ring).

「Yo.....tto! A success, a success~.」

Having done a spinning rotation in midair, Kuon cleanly landed right in front of me together with the sound of his bell.

「.....Ku, Kuon-san?」

「Yo, Sister-nee-chan! Man, I'm really sorry, Aniki! Since I didn't want Oyaji stopping me, I kept quiet about this and came!」

Kuon did a wry smile while scratching the back of his head. However, my thoughts were focused on a different part.

「.....Th, that d-d-doesn't matter!! Wh, wh-wh-wh-wh!! Wh, why, do you.....have boooooooooobbbbbssss!!」

That's right.

Bouncing the moment he had landed as if they had burst open, and even now as he was scratching the back of his head, emphasized from under his clothing as if they were pushed out, those splendid pair of hills. The bulges that men originally shouldn't have (fat people being the

exception), were existing on Kuon.

「Eh? Don't men also have them? Boobs.」

「The boobs of guys and girls are different! They are packed with dreams and hope!」

That's right. Dreams and hope are packed within them. Even in Kuon's breast, although it's not as much as Bernadette, there's a considerable amount of dreams and hope packed within.

「Eh? What, you.....You were a girl!?!」

That's right, if there wasn't a mistake in my vision, Kuon looked like a girl in my eyes. I did think that he was androgynous but.....to think that he was actually a girl!!

「Yup. Um, I just wasn't good with the girly, fluttery clothing. Since I didn't like them, I lived as a man.」

Looking shy, Kuon scratched his cheek. No, Kuon-chan. Casually, when I turned my eyes towards Vodan-shi who was already in the distance, I saw his figure as he had broken down crying.

S, so it was his only daughter.....In that case, I can agree with that affection of his.

「In that case, why are you in that appearance.....」

「It's because I was told by Jean that if I wanted to become Aniki's disciple, then I should become a girl.」

I will dare to say it, that that was a GJ!

As expected of Jean! He's able to calmly do things that we can't!

But, he didn't need to go with those clothes.....

What Kuon was wearing was a sleeveless, mini-skirt kimono that would make you think that it was already made with 『that kind of thing』 as the goal.

Is it even alright to call that a kimono?

I do love it though.

「It seems that these were my mother's work clothes, you know?」

You've got some good tastes, Mother.

「Well, putting the jokes aside, ...A disciple, huh. You don't plan on going back, do you?」

Although we were starting to get pretty far, she could still swim back at this point.

When I peeked over at the town of Be Io and asked, Kuon daringly smiled.

「At any rate, I'm going to be appearing in the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration. If I'm going to do it, it's more worthwhile to go while doing special training with you, Aniki, right?」

To Kuon who crossed her arms like a man (though she's a girl) and broadly grinned, I did a wry smile.



「Including the new comrade, Kuon Heleott, the Preceding Hero Yashiro Yuu's travels would still continue on. I guess that's how it should be?」

Stopping his hand that was playing the lute, Jean did a small laugh. Wishing for the happiness of the friend that was on the ship that had already gone so far that it had become as small as a grain, Jean Jacques Eustace laughed.

At his back, the presence of a person grew near.

「Kaka. It certainly does look to be a fairly cheerful journey, that path that Yashiro is on.」

She had a small knife-like, no, bewitching atmosphere drifting about her, but she was definitely a young lady that could be called a little girl.

Deep crimson eyes and white skin to the point it was abnormal. Wearing her green silver hair that was long enough that it touched the ground up, that little girl was a person that Jean, no, that Yuu also knew.

The one that stood nearby Jean, who was sitting on the roof of a tall building looking like he was gazing at the sea, was the little girl that was called 『The Witch of Time』 and that had not changed in appearance

since a thousand years ago, Norn.

「I have been waiting for you, 『Witch of Time』-sama.」

Norn returned with a smile to Jean who had only took a peek and turned only his eyes towards her.

「Kaka, I have cast aside that name as well. The current me is simply Norn.」

That way of speaking that didn't match her childish appearance was her normal tone, but Jean couldn't help but feel that something was out of place within it. To begin with, those clothes that the young lady that was standing beside him was wearing had greatly differed from what she normally wore.

「Simply Norn.....Still, that sure is a rather exaggerated formal dress.」

Those clothes were neither an Elf outfit, nor her outfit as the Witch of Time.

Winding a muffler that was dyed red around her neck, and steel lightweight equipment that had a dull red shine. A large sword that easily surpassed that small height of hers was hanging on her waist.

Lightweight equipment that had scratches standing out here and there, and a dull red muffler. But that lightweight equipment suited her more than any gorgeous clothing ever could.

That appearance of her wearing that armor, was there anything more majestic.

She had an appearance as if she were the small hero that had saved the world.

And then, in actuality, that appearance was her original appearance. Saving this world, it was the appearance of the First Hero that brought about peace to the world.

「Kaka. Tis just the helmet and armored appearance of a senile old fool.」

Jean made a wry smile to Norn who had spit that out while laughing.

「『The First Hero』, 『The Witch of Time』.....Casting aside those names that will definitely be sung upon reciting your lifetime.....What is it that you are trying to accomplish?」

Jean stood up. While wryly smiling at the boldly laughing young lady beside him that gave the illusion that made her look like she was bigger than him, Jean asked something that he couldn't help but ask about.

「.....Come to think of it, I have yet to give my gratitude to you. Allow me to give you my thanks first. And then, as thanks for your hailing to my call, I shall “divulge it” only to you.」

Self-important no matter when or where. And then, no matter who prostrated before her, without a shy face nor trying to hide her ambition, she continued.

「The 『Organization』.....No, I guess it's the Church right now.

How the Church is maneuvering behind the scenes, even you know about it, do you not?」

「Yes. I have heard that Yuu's assassination is also one of those maneuvers.」

Norn laughed scornfully at Jean's words.

「Kaka. Such a thing, tis but the temper of a fat pig. The problem, is its relationship with the Luxeria royal family.」

That was something that even Jean didn't know about. Norn laughed with a Kaka at the surprised Jean.

「At present, the one at the furthest depths that cannot be seen is the Luxeria royal family. What that girl is thinking, even I do not know. I do not know, but I cannot help but feel unease. In order to ascertain that, I shall have you go to the Luxeria royal family. I am sure you would be able to pass through with no objection if you say that you wish to sing about the current generation of Heroes or the like.」

Jean did a small nod. He did not mind himself moving about. Originally, it was for that reason that he went around to various countries and came

to this land after all.

More importantly, what Jean wanted to hear was Norn's behavioral principle.

「Kaka, you little dilettante. Tis but a trivial matter, you know? This world had overcome the distress called the Demon King, and is now in an age of peace. Those people that threaten that, I cannot tolerate them tis all.」

Her deep crimson eyes looked into the far, far distance.



「Yashiro-san.」

「Oh? So it's you, Bernadette.」

Not having much to teach to Kuon on top of the ship, I lightly taught her the practice method that I usually do in my spare time since it could be done within a room. It was now a time where I left Kuon, who was lying down like mud on top of the hammock in her room, alone and went up to the ship's deck. Bernadette was on the deck.

The sun had sunk before I knew it, and the setting sun turned the sea red.

And then, Bernadette, who was on the deck before me, was also illuminated by the setting sun, and I saw an expression that was different from normal.

「Where's Kuon-san?」

「Right now, she's within her dreams. I'm sure she'll be crying from muscle pains tomorrow.」

To me who smiled with a smirk, Bernadette did a giggling laugh. Putting my elbows on the deck's handrail, I gazed at the ocean.

The gentle sea breeze and the sounds of the wavelets felt good. Maybe because Bernadette who was beside me also thought so, she slowly closed her eyes.

「Ah.....」

I thought that her gesture was, pure and beautiful.

But, I wasn't fascinated by Bernadette's gesture for something rude.

「? Is something wrong?」

Seeing me frozen up while looking at her, Bernadette tilted her head.

.....She resembled her.

She really resembled her. I couldn't help but think, that her gesture, resembled her's.

「Although it was on an airship. Olivia also, had a habit of closing her eyes when she was feeling the wind. That's why, I thought you resembled her.」

I was able to understand, although it was sudden, why Jean said that she resembled her.

It wasn't about the external features like the chest or physique.

How she was honest with herself without any two-facedness.....It was in that part that she resembled her.

「Sorry about saying that so suddenly. This kind of thing is.....」

When I apologized to Bernadette who seemed to want to say something, she shook her head and said 「That's not it at all」.

「I was thinking that I wanted to hear about it. About three years ago, about the journey that Yashiro-san and Saint-sama.....Olivia-san had spent together. About what you thought about, about what you fought. If you don't mind, please let me listen to it.」

Staring at me, her eyes unwavering, she powerfully looked at me.

「.....It'll probably be more boring than the other day, you know?」

「Fufun. Yashiro-san, if you start crying, I can go “there, there” again for you, you know?」

「Y, you little.....Hmph! I'll let you hear a sentimental, spoken fondly of story that will make you feel like you're overflow with sugar from the

mouth.」

Retaliating to her way of speaking that made fun of me with frivolous talk, I looked up at the sky that turned into the night sky, and started talking about things one by one.

「Olivia, she was a girl that like to roll things around when she ate and would say things that weren't very princess-like.」

While looking up at the red moon floating in the sky, I sent my heart out.



クオン・
ヘレオット



ヴォーダン・
ヘレオット



ナルシ

キャラクターデザインラフ



ジャン・ジャック・
ユースタス



ゼファー



メアリー・フィ・
クレストリア



ファルハット・
エンハンス



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